

Labour alarm over Trotskyist alliance

By Anthony Beving, Political Correspondent

Leading Labour right-wingers are becoming increasingly concerned about the activities and influence of the Socialist Organiser Alliance, a little-known Trotskyist coalition on the hard-left of the party.

Some MPs are so incensed by a Socialist Organiser campaign on the future of the party, that the alliance could yet provide the provocation, or the pretext, for a breakdown in the Bishop's Stortford peace agreement.

The alliance, which consists of supporters of far-left groups such as the International Communist League, Workers' Action, the Workers' Socialist League, Women's Fightback, and the founding Socialist Campaign for a Labour Victory, has come out against the top-level party truce.

Some Labour leaders feel strongly that Socialist Organiser, like Militant, is acting in breach of the party constitution because it maintains a separate membership, structure, policy programme and newspaper.

But they have been forced to accept that Mr Michael Foot and the party's national executive will probably draw the line at the present investigation into Militant.

The alliance, whose newspaper, carries a weekly report of its own far-left policy programme, maintains local groups in most big towns, and has appealed to its readers to "become a card-carrying supporter".

The importance of the alliance is that it brings together a large number of separate sects and, unlike Militant Tendency, it goes out of its way to fight for minority rights.

Militant is judged to have a poor record on women's rights, the rights of ethnic minorities and the gay community. Socialist Organiser has filled that gap on the far-left.

The alliance has investigated the formation of the National Left Wing Youth Movement, with its own newspaper, to challenge Militant's pre-eminence in the Labour Party Young Socialist movement.

It has also established informal links with the non-Trotskyist London Labour Briefing, which made headlines last year with Mr Peter Tatchell's views on extra-parliamentary activities.

A recent Socialist Organiser analysis of Mr Foot's counter-attack on Mr Tatchell says bluntly: "Foot lies to himself

and to the Labour movement about the present condition of parliamentary democracy.

"For Foot, radical, direct action is not superseded by Parliament. The Labour movement must bow down to Parliament." But the alliance states that the workers have every right to resist to make it impossible for the government to govern, and bring it down.

Mr John Bloor, the alliance secretary, says in the latest edition of the Organiser's "newspaper" that Labour's Bennites have given up the fight against the right.

He says they would appear to have accepted the basic argument which has crippled the left again and again: that Labour must sink its differences to win elections, and therefore, since the right-wing won't give ground on essentials, the left must.

And at the launch meeting of yet another left grouping, Labour Liaison 82, this coming Saturday, the Socialist Organiser will argue that the fight must be maintained on all fronts; to recapture complete control of the party.

Mr Bloor states: "The existing leadership does not fight for party politics, and must be replaced."

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Closed shop victory for women

Labour-controlled Walsall council has been ordered to reinstate four dinner staff dismissed last May because they refused to join a union closed shop (Our Birmingham Correspondent writes).

The West Midlands Council could face paying substantial compensation awards to the women if it fails to reinstate them by a Birmingham industrial tribunal yesterday that the women were unfairly dismissed.

One of the four, Mrs Doris Todd, 36, of Fosse Road, Edgbaston, told the tribunal she was sent to Coventry by her workmates because she refused to be a union member. She blamed the union for that.

Mr William Gage, counsel for Walsall, told the tribunal: "I concede that these women were unfairly dismissed," but he said it would be impractical to reinstate them.

Mr Richard Smith, the tribunal chairman, who said he believed it was the first case of its kind under the 1980 Employment Act, ordered the women's reinstatement within two months, and said compensation payments could be inflated if the ruling was not heeded.

Oil sponsorship aids theatre

The National Youth Theatre, which ran into financial difficulties when its Arts Council grant was withdrawn last year, had its future assured yesterday with the announcement of £65,000 in sponsorship for the coming year from Texaco Ltd.

Although both parties were coy about the sums involved and the duration, it was certain that Texaco intend to sponsor the National Youth Theatre for some time.

The announcement was made by Sir Ralph Richardson, president of the National Youth Theatre, who said Texaco had been very generous.

Humanists call for law reform

The British Humanist Association has proposed in evidence to the Law Commission that all offences specifically related to religious belief should be done away with, our Religious Correspondent writes.

But the National Board of Catholic Women has urged the commission to uphold the law of blasphemy on the ground that it is "an assault upon the mind and spirit" analogous to physical assault.

Inquiry postponed

A public inquiry into plans to build a controversial pressurized water nuclear reactor at Sizewell, Suffolk, has been postponed until next year, so that safety studies can be completed and the findings published.

Lawyer wins tussle to keep clients

By Frances Gibb

A leading libel lawyer yesterday won the right in the Court of Appeal to continue to act for clients he used to represent when with his former firm.

Lord Denning, Master of the Rolls, sitting with Lord Justice Kerr and Lord Justice May, ruled that it would be contrary to public policy if a client could not have the solicitor of his choice.

He allowed an appeal by Mr Peter Carter-Ruck, formerly a senior partner with Oswald Hickson, Collier and Co, against a High Court order made by Mr Justice Jupp in November, that he could not continue to act for the firm's clients, except for those he introduced.

In particular, Lord Denning granted Mr Carter-Ruck the right to continue to act for one client at the centre of one of the most bitter libel cases in the country, the Frank Barber Syndicate, which Mr Carter-Ruck had represented for some 40 years.

Yesterday's ruling was the latest round in a dispute which has torn Oswald Hickson Collier and Co, for some four years. A notice to dissolve the partnership issued in 1978 against Mr Carter-Ruck by some of the partners is still at arbitration after a hearing lasting 60 days.

Mr Carter-Ruck retired from that firm and set up his own under the name of Peter Carter-Ruck and Partners.

Oswald Hickson, Collier and Co had argued that according to a clause in the deed of partnership drawn up in 1975, partners leaving the firm were prohibited for two years from acting for any client of that firm other than those they introduced.

The Frank Barber Syndicate, the firm said, was introduced by Mr Carter-Ruck. It had been a client of the original firm of Mr Oswald Hickson, Collier and Co, which Mr Carter-Ruck bought on Mr Hickson's death in January 1944.

Lord Denning said such a prohibitive clause could not be right and that since Mr Carter-Ruck had spent nine months without a partner in 1944, the syndicate was therefore one of his clients, which he had introduced to the new partnership.

TUC considers half-hour protest over Tebbit Bill

By Paul Routledge, Labour Editor

The TUC is to consider mounting a 30-minute continental-style general stoppage of public transport throughout Britain in protest at the Government's proposed legal curbs on trade union rights.

The proposal, by the Transport and General Workers' Union, is among options being examined by the TUC's employment policy and organization committee in preparation for a special policy-making conference of union executives being held on April 5.

In a letter to the TUC, Mr Mostyn Evans, the general secretary of the TGWU, says: "If this were timed at, say, 11 am across the whole country, it could be called the 'eleventh hour protest' to get across the message that it is not too late for the Government to withdraw the Bill."

The employment policy and organization committee, which is drawing up the campaign against the package of labour law reforms of Mr Norman Tebbit, Secretary of State for Employment, will examine next month the scope for "some form of protest action against the Bill."

But union leaders on the employment committee yesterday sent back the preliminary policy document for the conference drawn up by staff at Congress House as being not tough enough. They want unions to be instructed rather than advised to work closely with any union whose support may be needed to make industrial action against the new law effective.

New ITV shows go to top

Independent television's new programmes are drawing more viewers than the BBC's, according to the Broadcasters Audience Research Board's figures for the week ending January 10.

None of the seven peak-time programmes made any impact, while four out of independent television entries were among the most-watched programmes. The most successful was the comedy series, *Shine on Harvey Moon*, which drew 14,200,000 people, while *Dr Who*, which drew 13,400,000, was the second most-watched show. *Dr Who* on One did manage 12,500,000 on Thursday, against independent television's *Rygar*'s 11,000,000 on the same day.

It benefited from preceding *The Gentle Touch* (London Weekend) which rose to the number four position, with 18,120,000 viewers.

Let There Be Love, starring Paul Eddington of *Yes Minister* (Thames, Monday) was hard on its heels with 15,580,000. The same company's *Wish You Were Here* at 7 pm, which is about planning holiday, did well to attract 13,480,000 against the recast and rescheduled *Dr Who*, which could draw no more than 9,120,000.

Of the other BBC 1 hopefuls, only a revival could be counted a success. *Last of the Summer Wine* drew 14,200,000 people to make it the seventeenth most-watched show. *Dr Who* on One did manage 12,500,000 on Thursday, against independent television's *Rygar*'s 11,000,000 on the same day.

BL dealers lead world with Viewdata link.

Now that BL Cars have installed the world's first private nationwide Viewdata service in BL showrooms, prospective buyers can check on availability of any car in seconds.

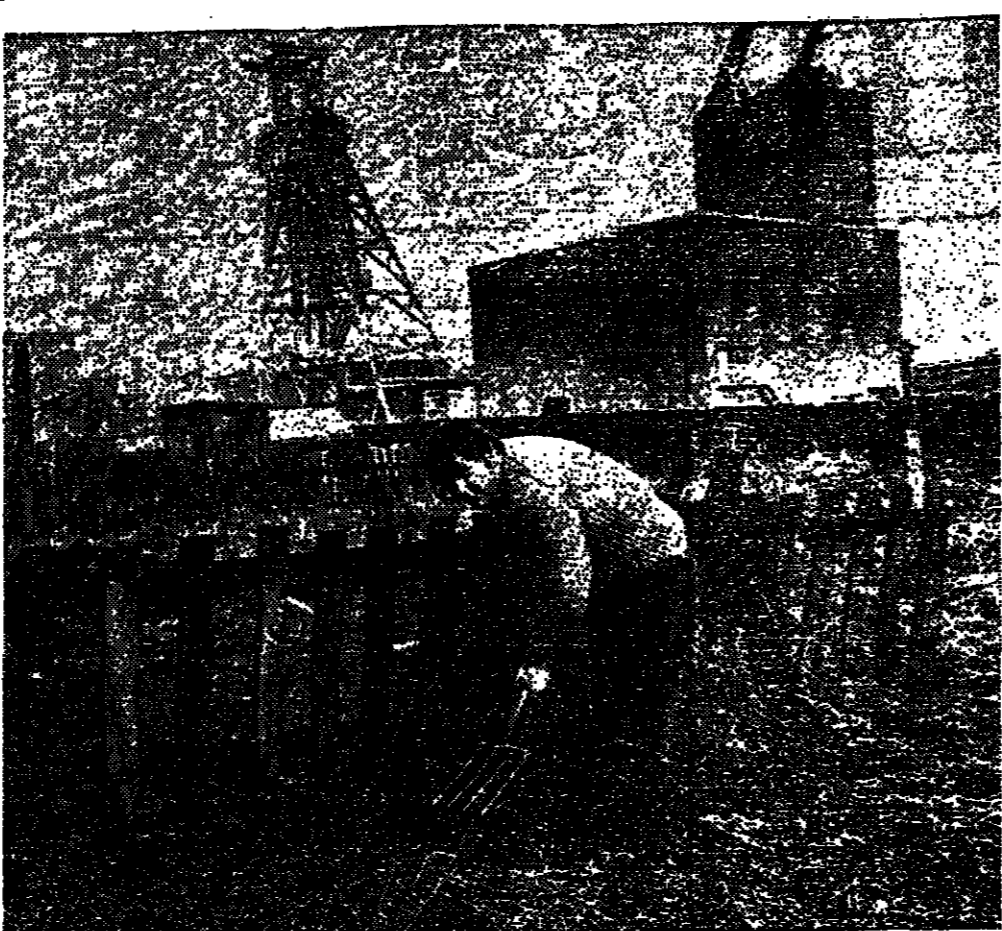
With the help of BL's massive central computer complex, a TV screen will give the location of the car of their choice, together with a detailed specification.

The Viewdata system gives dealers access to lists of BL Cars' entire new stock, with the location of every available vehicle.

Viewdata is simpler and cheaper to use than conventional computer systems.

Over half of BL Cars distributors and main dealers now have this highly sophisticated stock locator system installed as part of a drive to improve customer services.

BL Fighting back



Trevor Keeling: Nobody can afford a strike.

What miners think: Nottinghamshire

'We're not a battering ram'

By Nicholas Timmins

In the isolated village of Newstead, Nottinghamshire, with its battered nineteenth century miners' terraces, totally dominated by the pit, there are few signs of the X registration cars and the mortgages that Sidney Vincent, the Lancashire miners' president, said affected the ballot. But there is still a strong feeling that the miners cannot afford a strike.

Although some at the Newstead colliery, where 1,200 miners produce 750,000 tons a year from the 127-year-old pit, insist the vote is evenly split, there seems little doubt that the traditionally moderate Nottinghamshire miners have voted against a strike.

"The time isn't right," said Mr Alan Pickering, aged 46, a miner and a face worker at Newstead for the past 27 years.

Sitting in a bus with 20 face workers just off the day shift, almost all of whom said they voted against the executive, he said: "I voted for a strike in 1972 and 1974 and I voted for Arthur Scargill because he's the best man for the job whether he's left or right. But it's up to us to decide what we want to do. We are not going to get a deal from a strike, nor in this climate." The offer, he said, was not great.

"But it's better than a kick in the eye and it's the highest any union has had."

Several said they could not afford a strike. Others that there was political motivation behind the ballot. "Some of the men thought they were using us as a battering ram to get Maggie out," one said. "I would rather have the money in the pocket than be walking round the street wondering what to do next."

If some of the face workers, who take home between £100 and £110 a week feel they cannot

afford a strike, the same goes for Trevor Keeling, aged 29, a surface worker at the pit baths who takes home about £70. With a daughter aged nine months, a council house and a spell of unemployment three years ago before he returned to Newstead, he said, "I do not think anybody can afford a strike to be honest."

If there was a strike, the pit would shut itself. You don't vote for money and not have a job. Managing on the money was a struggle, he said, but a strike would have cost more than it gained.

Those who voted for the executive insisted that the offer would have been improved without a strike. They believed the pre-poll article by Mr Joseph Gormley, rapidly planned up by the management at some pits, had its effect.

"It was every talking point," said Brian Walker, the branch secretary. "People here have taken notice. It frightened them. It's indefensible when a president does that."

"That Joe Gormley," said a durly underground repair man at the colliery, gesturing towards a 200 foot high lightning pylon at the pit. "He wants hanging on that pylon by the legs. I hope you can find a lot of people to listen to him. He should have kept his mouth shut, he is retiring."

He voted for the miners' executive recommendation that it should be given power to call industrial action if necessary, but conceded that Mr Gormley's intervention probably did not alter the way the ballot has gone at Newstead.

"There's too many young lads with too much debt around their necks," he said.

Wales

Close vote puts jobs before pay

From Tim Jones, Cardiff

Militant miners' leaders in South Wales appeared last night to have misjudged again the mood of their members as it seemed that the area would fail to give overwhelming backing to the national executive's call for the power to authorize a strike, if necessary, over pay.

Some lodge (union branch) officials were even predicting that the area identified as being staunchly in support of Mr Arthur Scargill, the president-elect, would fail to back the executive by falling

short of the 55 per cent of votes needed to demonstrate its support.

Because of the blizzards, the men did not vote until Tuesday and militants were hoping that widespread support by the 27,000 miners could hold the key to the national result.

Mr Joseph Gormley, the outgoing president, and the national press emerged as the villains.

Mr Tom Bowden, lodge secretary at Bargued, said: "I was at the pithead at 5 am and before going down about 70

miners condemned Mr Gormley. To call him a Judas would be polite and once again he has proved he is a turncoat.

He added: "At present our members are more concerned about job retention than they are about wages."

Mr Ivor England, of the Maerdy colliery, accused Mr Gormley of hypocrisy.

From Wyndham-Western colliery another miner expressed a contrary view: "I voted for the 9.5 per cent pay offer because I felt a long and bitter strike would achieve very little

Scargill blames 'unholy alliance'

By Lucy Hodges

Mr Arthur Scargill, president-elect of the National Union of Mineworkers, yesterday suggested that Mr Joseph Gormley, the outgoing president, might be elevated to the peerage for his part in opposing strike action.

Interviews on BBC Radio Four's *Today* programme Mr Scargill said: "How any national president, having a national conference decision and national executive decision to support a strike, could be elevated to the peerage for his part in opposing strike action."

He said the board had spent "thousands and thousands of pounds of money earned by our members" on a campaign to urge people to vote against the strike.

"The sum total of that kind of combination, an unholy

alliance between Ezra and Gormley, resulted in the defeat. I have no doubt that we shall be seeing very shortly that unholy alliance of Lord Matthews, who runs the *Daily Express*, and possibly Lord Ezra, who is chairman of the coal board, and possibly Lord Gormley sitting in the House of Lords contemplating what they did."

That was not sour grapes on his part, Mr Scargill said. The executive committee, with one exception, disagreed with Mr Gormley's action.

Rail dispute

The conflict at the heart of the matter

By David Felton, Labour Reporter

Two understandings on pay and productivity reached at the Advisory, Conciliation and Arbitration Service offices in London last August lie at the heart of the dispute between British Rail and the footplate-men's union.

BR insists that the pay element is dependent on agreement to productivity improvements, but the Associated Society of Locomotive Engineers and Firemen (Aslef) argues that the two understandings were separate.

The Aslef talks were called last summer after BR said it could not afford to implement a two-stage 11 per cent pay award made by the Railway Staff National Tribunal (RSNT).

The Aslef meetings ended with the Railway Staff National Council (RSNC), BR's negotiating body, being convened. The document signed by BR and the three rail unions said: "The RSNC has reached an understanding on pay. Itemising from paragraph 190 of RSNT decision No 75, a separate understanding has been reached on productivity."

The relevant paragraph of the tribunal's findings read: "We fully appreciate that

Arbitration formula sought

Leaders of Aslef called next week's strikes as attempts were made by Aslef to reconvene Tuesday's talks. It is possible that Mr Pat Lowery, chairman of Aslef, will ask the three rail unions and British Rail management to join talks today and it is expected that further attempts will be made to find a formula which would allow arbitration as a means of settling the dispute (David Felton writes).

given the financial and market constraints that press on the industry, adequate pay and conditions must continue to be dependent on what can be done to maintain and improve productivity."

A minute of the staff council discussions at Aslef refers to proposals put to BR by the National Union of Railwaymen on behalf of all the unions.

The basis was that the tribunal decision should stand; and that introduction of the shorter working week should be delayed until January 1982, when the second stage, 3 per cent, of the award should also be paid,

I'm staying, Ripper police chief says

From Ronald Kershaw, Wakefield

Mr Ronald Gregory, Chief Constable of West Yorkshire, said last night that he had no intention of resigning.

He also said that he had no regrets over the Yorkshire Ripper investigation except perhaps that officers who were fully committed to the inquiry had been castigated in the *Byford* report the way they had been.

Emerging from a three-hour meeting of the West Yorkshire police committee, Mr Gregory was asked if he was to retire. He said he would in not more than four years but he acknowledged it might be before that. However, he added: "I am going to sort this out. I am going to sort this out."

Mr Gregory said there had been no discussion at the meeting about resignation or retirement.

Mr Gregory said morale in the West Yorkshire police force was high. It had been a bit low because no officers from West Yorkshire were going to be accepted for promotion to assistant chief constable. Now two were being considered.

Mr Gregory said he was sure the police had not lost the confidence of the public in West Yorkshire. The people had appreciated the difficulties at the time of the Ripper investigation. "The support policeman who can make the right decision at the right time has not been born."

The committee adopted a mildly belligerent attitude when considering the statement by Mr William Whitehead, the Home Secretary, in the Commons on Tuesday on the shortcomings of the West Yorkshire police during the Ripper hunt.

The committee criticized the Home Secretary for not making available to it the full report of Mr Lawrence Byford, HM Inspector of Constabulary, and called for a meeting to be attended by Mr Byford and Sir James Crane, HM Chief Inspector of Constabulary.

Mr Gregory told the committee that Mr Byford was in some difficulty in conducting the inquiry into the police investigation because he had inspected the force while the investigation was under way.

Mr Gregory said he had not seen the report but knew of the two main points of criticism. One about expense, thought at one stage to have been sent by the Ripper, and the other about the compilation and collection of information.

He said: "We sought the use of a computer in 1977 and we were told it would take two years to convert the information we had to the computer, and in the police service in the country there was no computer for us to use."

Science report

Vitamin E may save sight of babies

By Our Medical Correspondent

Very small premature babies commonly have immature eyes and need to be nursed in an incubator with extra oxygen if they are to survive. Without enough oxygen the baby's brain may suffer irreversible damage. Unfortunately, if the paediatrician gives too high a concentration of oxygen another complication may develop: damage to the blood vessels in the eyes. A condition called retrolental fibroplasia, which if severe can cause permanent blindness.

The connection between excess oxygen and retrolental fibroplasia has been recognized for 30 years but it has become more important recently as improvements in neonatal medicine have led to the survival of more of the smallest babies, in whom the risk of retrolental fibroplasia is greatest.

Despite a number of research studies, no level of oxygen can be recommended. A partial solution may, however, be found in vitamin E.

Early trials of treatment with vitamin E gave somewhat inconclusive results, but some encouraging figures have emerged from a project at the Baylor College of Medicine in Texas. One hundred and twenty babies weighing under 1500g (3.3 lb) were divided into two groups. Those given vitamin E had substantially less severe retrolental fibroplasia than those who had none of the treated babies developed the most severe, grade three, damage to their eyes.

New England Journal of Medicine, December 3, 1981, p 1365.

BINGO WAR BOOSTS NEWSPAPERS

By Robert Jones

Fleet Street's popular daily newspaper is enjoying a circulation by a total of 540,000 copies to 13,072,058 in the past six months of 1981, thanks to bingo. That would mean an increase of about 56m in revenue compared with the annual cost of the present bingo competition, which are estimated by one City analyst at about £15m.

It could be argued that the circulation gain from bingo has been greater because, without bingo, circulation might have been expected to fall, given the long-term trend and the effects of the recession. On the other hand, had it not been for the intensive competition generated by the bingo war, newspapers might have increased their cover prices more to take account of increases in costs.

The *Daily Star*, which began in 1981, first in the regions early in 1981, has seen its circulation gain and increased by 474,000 to 1,500,000. The circulation of *The Sun*, which began bingo in June, went up by 396,000 to 4,100,000. However, both the *Daily Star* and *The Sun* held their prices at 2p. The *Daily Mirror*, which increased its price by 2p to 14p in September, suffered a loss of 185,000 in circulation to 3,600,000 on the half year. The *Daily Express* and the *Daily Mail*, which increased their prices by 3p to 15p in July, showed falls of 68,000 and 210,000 and 61,000 to 1,900,000 respectively.

Overall, the popular Sunday newspapers, which have not changed their prices, have suffered a loss of 140,000 to 14,600,000 in combined circulations.

The biggest loser has been the *Sunday People*, down 163,000 to 3,600,000.

The national "quality" newspapers have lost 52,000 in circulation to 2,200,000. The biggest loser has been *The Daily Telegraph*, which lost 31,000 to 1,300,000, following an increase of 3p to 18p in the cover price last August. *The Times* increased its circulation by 19,000 to 2,298,000 and *The Guardian* by 18,000 to 2,807,000. Despite a price increase of 5p to 30p in August the *Financial Times* put on 2,000 to 198,000, helped by an extensive television advertising campaign.

Among the "quality" Sunday newspapers, the circulation of *The Observer* has fallen by 42,000 to 887,000, that of *The Sunday Telegraph* by 85,000 to 917,000 and that of *The Sunday Times* by 66,000 to 1,400,000.

TALKS PLEDGED

Controls for vetting the type of jobs senior police officers may take after they leave the police force are to be discussed by Mr William Whitehead, Home Secretary, with chief constables after criticism of the appointment of a senior officer at Scotland Yard to an executive position in the reconstructed Playboy gambling empire.

Earlier this month Mr Peter Nevels, deputy assistant commissioner in charge of publicity, retired to join Trident Television, which has bought Playboy's casinos.

Overseas sell-in prices
Australia \$2.25, Bahrain 1.00, Canada 1.00, Ceylon 1.00, Denmark 1.00, Finland 1.00, France 1.00, Germany 1.00, Greece 1.00, Hong Kong 1.00, India 1.00, Ireland 1.00, Italy 1.00, Japan 1.00, Korea 1.00, Kuwait 1.00, Lebanon 1.00, Libya 1.00, Luxembourg 1.00, Malaysia 1.00, Mauritius 1.00, Mexico 1.00, Monaco 1.00, New Zealand 1.00, Norway 1.00, Oman 1.00, Pakistan 1.00, Panama 1.00, Peru 1.00, Portugal 1.00, Qatar 1.00, Saudi Arabia 1.00, Singapore 1.00, South Africa 1.00, Sri Lanka 1.00, Sweden 1.00, Switzerland 1.00, Taiwan 1.00, Thailand 1.00, Turkey 1.00, U.A.R. 1.00, U.K. 1.00, U.S.A. 1.00, Venezuela 1.00.

Doctors face threat of abortion prosecutions

By Annabel Ferriman, Health Services Correspondent

Several doctors have been reported to the Director of Public Prosecutions by the Department of Health and Social Security for allegedly failing to provide full medical reasons for the abortions they carry out.

Under a new abortion notification form introduced last March, doctors no longer have the option of stating non-medical grounds for carrying out an abortion.

They are being asked specifically to name the main medical condition that would make continuation of the pregnancy a greater risk to the physical or mental health of the mother than its termination.

Some doctors have resisted the new form and have failed to fill it in fully. One doctor, for example, named pregnancy as the main medical condition causing the patient to need an abortion.

The department is referring those cases to the DPP for an opinion on whether the abortions were legal. If the DPP decides they were not, the doctors will face prosecution.

The change in the form is seen by many pro-abortionists as a back-door attempt to

change the working of the Abortion Act, 1967.

The National Abortion Campaign said: "The Act says that doctors may take a woman's social circumstances into account when determining whether continuing her pregnancy would be a risk to her health."

"We believe the DHSS has undermined the actual wording of the Act by interpreting this to mean that there must be a medical condition, present or anticipated, to justify an abortion."

"anti-abortionists have repeatedly failed to get legislation through Parliament on these lines, and we believe this restriction is an attempt to accomplish through administrative means what has failed in open debate."

A doctor who was not familiar with the Act might feel legally unable to perform an abortion unless the woman had a specifically medical condition it said.

The DHSS denied that it was trying to tighten up the working of the Act, but said it had a duty to ensure the law was being obeyed. "In no way are we putting pressure

in doctors not to perform abortions."

"The form changed because on the old form the information was not always completed properly. We were being criticized because there was no systematic data about the medical condition of the women."

"We are not saying that social conditions should no longer be taken into account."

The British Medical Association said it was very disturbing that doctors were being reported to the DPP, but declined to comment further until more details were available.

It said there had not been very good consultation with the profession over the change of form, but association committees found that it reflected the terms of the Act, which the BMA supports.

"If this is shown not to be the case then we shall have to make inquiries but we have made complaints so far from our members."

Life, the anti-abortion group, said it was "delighted that at last the DHSS is doing its job."

Scottish rape case

Solicitor-General to answer MPs

By Alan Hamilton

Mr Nicholas Fairbairn, Solicitor-General for Scotland, will attempt to explain in a Commons statement today the controversial decision by the Scottish law officers not to prosecute three teenagers for the alleged rape and attempted murder of a Glasgow woman, aged 30.

The widespread outrage at the decision has shattered the cosy image of Scotland's independent prosecutors, the procurators-fiscal, nurtured by the actor, Iain Cuthbertson, in the popular television series *Sutherland's Law*, and has brought obloquy on the head of the prosecuting system's chief law officer, the Lord Advocate.

Scotland's legal roots lie in Continental Roman law rather than English common law; while English law is traditionally based on precedent, Scots law is based more on principle. The main difference is that Scotland has always separated the functions of investigation and prosecution. In England the police prosecute in most cases; in Scotland, rarely so.

Procurators-fiscal, who are attached to the sheriff courts throughout Scotland, are civil servants appointed by the Crown. Most are solicitors by training. It is they who take the police evidence



Lord Mackay of Clashfern: Discretion on prosecutions

and decide whether there is a case to answer, and it is they who prosecute.

Serious cases are referred to the headquarters of the fiscal service, the Crown Office in Edinburgh. All rape cases are referred, and, if proceeded with, come before the High Court.

The Crown Office is headed by the Lord Advocate, at present Lord Mackay of Clashfern, aged 54, a former leading member of the Scottish Bar, and a political appointee of Mrs Margaret Thatcher in 1979. Edinburgh legal circles describe him as

having been an outstanding lawyer with a wide general practice. In particular, serious or notable cases Lord Mackay would himself appear in court as prosecuting counsel.

Extremely wide discretion is given to the Lord Advocate in deciding whether a case should proceed, but his main considerations are whether there is sufficient evidence to constitute a *prima facie* case, and whether prosecution would be in the public interest.

Probably the most significant rule governing his actions, and one which certainly applies in the Glasgow case, is that once the Crown Office has sent letters to individuals who might have been prosecuted, stating that the case is being dropped, there is no mechanism for reversing the decision.

Private prosecution is virtually unknown in Scotland, but it is theoretically possible, once the Lord Advocate has refused a prosecution, for an injured party to apply to the High Court in Edinburgh for a grant to pursue a private prosecution.

Patrick Meehan, released after a seven-year sentence on a murder charge, failed in his attempt to pursue a private prosecution against the police for perjury.

Training in mental health law proposed

By Lucy Hodges

Social workers should be trained in mental health law and civil liberties, according to draft guidelines drawn up by a government-organised group which is consulting interested parties.

The proposals arise from the Mental Health (Amendment) Bill, progressing through the Lords, which says that only approved social workers will be allowed to undertake such jobs as committing people compulsorily to mental hospitals.

Until now social workers with no special training in mental health were able to do that. Moreover there has been confusion about the role of social workers in relation to the client and the doctors involved in a case.

Under the guidelines a national register of approved social workers will be established and a crash training programme organized before the new Act is implemented.

The guidelines say that each local social services department should set up a panel to handle the training programme. Authorities which have mental welfare officers will have to ensure they are retrained within two years of the passage of the Act.

There is to be no formal National Health Service inquiry into a series of suicides at a psychiatric unit on the fifth floor of the Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Birmingham. Instead the unit may be reopened in order to save funds. Twelve patients have jumped to their deaths from windows.

It closed last year after three such deaths in succession. But the West Midlands Regional Health Authority yesterday rejected local requests for an inquiry.

The authority's board meeting was told by Dr Angus McGregor, the regional medical officer, that suicide was not listed as a cause of death on returns made by hospitals.



From the wilderness: Angela Whittington and Julia Moorhouse with Mrs Kath Brown and friends from the 11th Dewsbury Guides and Brownies, who won £400 for transporting derelict land in West Yorkshire into Baden-Powell Park, a public garden specially for the disabled.

LSE Tories challenge union

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The London School of Economics' students' union will meet today to decide whether to proceed with plans to give £100 to three southern African liberation movements, after being told that the Attorney General considers that such a payment would be illegal.

Last November, the students' union passed a resolution committing it to making an annual payment of £100 divided between the

South-West Africa Peoples Organization, (Swapo) the African National Congress, and the Pan-African Congress.

Members of the Federation of Conservative Students at the LSE immediately approached the Treasury solicitor's office, asking for a ruling on whether such a payment would be legal under the union's constitution.

A letter from the office,

earlier this month to the president of the LSE students' union, said that the Attorney General would "take a very grave view" of the payments.

Mr Steven Pound, president of the union, said yesterday that the LSE anti-apartheid group, which had moved last November's resolution, would now be putting forward a motion to fund a scholarship at the LSE for a black African student.

NEWS IN SUMMARY

Council told how to save £1m

A team of businessmen that investigated Peterborough City Council say £1m could be saved by cutting staff and increasing efficiency.

The report says recruitment should cease; staff should be dismissed and overtime working out. There should be more sub-contracting of council work; telephone calls from the town hall monitored; municipal office space reduced; more charged for council swimming pools and the number of free car parking spaces for employees cut.

Mr Charles Swift, the council's Labour leader, welcomed the report as objective and constructive. He invited the team to return in six months to judge whether their criticisms had been answered.

August baby for Frosts

David Frost, the television personality, and his wife Lynn Frederick, the actress, are expecting their first baby in August.

Mr Frost, announcing the news in London yesterday, said: "Both Lynn and I are ecstatic. We are over the moon."

The baby will mean less travelling for Mr Frost but he said he will still be joining independent television's breakfast network when it goes on the air in May next year.

Cinema project is launched

A 300-seat auditorium for Filmhouse, Scotland's leading film centre in Edinburgh, opens next month. The project will cost £600,000 and at its London launch yesterday, Mr Jim Hickey, director, said £180,000 was still outstanding.

Conservatives in dispute over electoral reform

By Philip Webster, Political Reporter

A dispute was building up in the Conservative Party last night over the publication of a pamphlet opposing electoral reform.

The document, published today by the Conservative Political Centre, is written by Sir Angus Maude, the former Paymaster General, and Mr John Semerey, a political journalist.

It argues that reformers must produce a precisely detailed scheme, tailored for Britain's regional and other problems, which could eliminate the risk of corruption, gerrymandering and political instability evident in other systems, and concludes: "We do not for a moment believe they can do it."

Yesterday the Conservative Action for Electoral Reform group (CAER) issued a statement saying the pamphlet was a ragbag of clichés which contributed nothing to party needs.

The authors, it said, had not answered the central argument in favour of electoral reform: that Britain, in comparison with her mian tading rivals, had been noticeable unsuccessful since the Second World War. Conservatives who favoured electoral reform believed the electoral system to be an important factor contributing to that decline.

Mr Anthony Wigram, chairman of Conservative Action for Electoral Reform

attacked the authors for paying little heed to the threat posed by the Liberal-SDP alliance. "For a pamphlet written and published by an intellectual element of the Tory Party to skate over the alliance in a couple of paragraphs is not good enough."

Mr Richard Holme, director of the all-party Campaign for Electoral Reform, said the pamphlet was obviously a propaganda exercise and should not be taken seriously. "The dwindling body of those who oppose PR are swimming against a flood tide of public opinion. Repeated opinion polls have shown that those MPs who oppose reform speak for a few vested interests."

The pamphlet says the first-past-the-post system generally produces effective governments with adequate working majorities, whereas other systems can produce unstable coalitions and that enables close contact between the individual and his constituency. MP and allows by-elections.

Under proportional representation, it says MPs owe their entire allegiance to the party chiefs. Months can be wasted in wheeling and dealing between parties after elections.

Why electoral change? The case for PR examined. (CPC, 32 Smith Square, London SW1, £2)

Jobs go as Navy drops radar deal

A total of 750 jobs at the Marconi defence complex are to be lost because of the Ministry of Defence's cancellation of a multi-million pound final order for tracking and surveillance radar for the Royal Navy's Sea Wolf missile.

The Navy said the order was cancelled as part of a process of adjusting weapons and equipment programmes to match the reduced size of the surface fleet.

Under last June's defence review it was decided to halt construction of the Navy's super frigates, the type 22's worth £120m each, after seven orders and to scrap modernization of the older Leander-class frigates.

Both classes of ship were to be fitted with the Mark One heavyweight Sea Wolf, a weapon designed to destroy attacking enemy sea-skimming, anti-ship missiles.

The job losses will be at Marconi plants in the Chelmsford, Essex, area and at Gateshead, Tyne and Wear, the company said yesterday.

The company said it reviewed the employment levels its reduced business could sustain after the cancellation. "Consequently, and with much regret, the company has notified its employees, trade union representatives and the Department of Employment of 460 redundancies in the Chelmsford area. The Gateshead establishment has also been affected where 290 jobs had become redundant."

The RAF is to boost Britain's anti-aircraft missile defences by setting up three new bases in East Anglia in the next two years. Whitehall officials confirmed yesterday. The RAF is calling back three flights of ageing Bloodhound missiles, which first became operational in 1964, from British bases in West Germany to strengthen missile stations in Britain.

The missiles from Bruggen and Wildenrath will be moved to Barkston Heath, Lincolnshire, and Wyton, Cambridgeshire, early next year.

Pakistan is to buy the Royal Navy's 6,300 ton destroyer HMS London. It is the latest ship to be sold as part of the surface fleet reductions.

Tory unease over SDP

By Our Parliamentary Staff

Mr Cecil Parkinson, chairman of the Conservative Party, yesterday demonstrated the party's unease at the prospect of meeting combined Liberal/SDP AND labour onslaughts at the next general election, although he said he was positive that the Tories would enjoy resounding success.

In a speech to the Parliamentary Press Gallery yesterday, Mr Parkinson dismissed those inclined to write off the Labour Party. "Those who think that the Labour Party will go into the next election in its present state are totally wrong," he said.

While conceding that the SDP had had its successes, Mr Parkinson rounded on its leading figures and in particular Mr Roy Jenkins, the

new candidate in the forthcoming by-election in Glasgow, Hillhead. He branded Mr Jenkins as the most deflationary Chancellor of the Exchequer since the war, and attacked the credibility of the "Gang of Four" who presently share the SDP joint leadership.

He pointed out that unlike the Liberals, the SDP leadership had had and used power. They had had the opportunity to do things and judged by that standard they were vulnerable, Mr Roy Jenkins in particular.

In his budget of 1968 Mr Jenkins had put up direct taxes by £3,000m, especially the duty on whisky. In every budget he had raised taxes and pursued highly deflationary budgets, except that in April, 1970.

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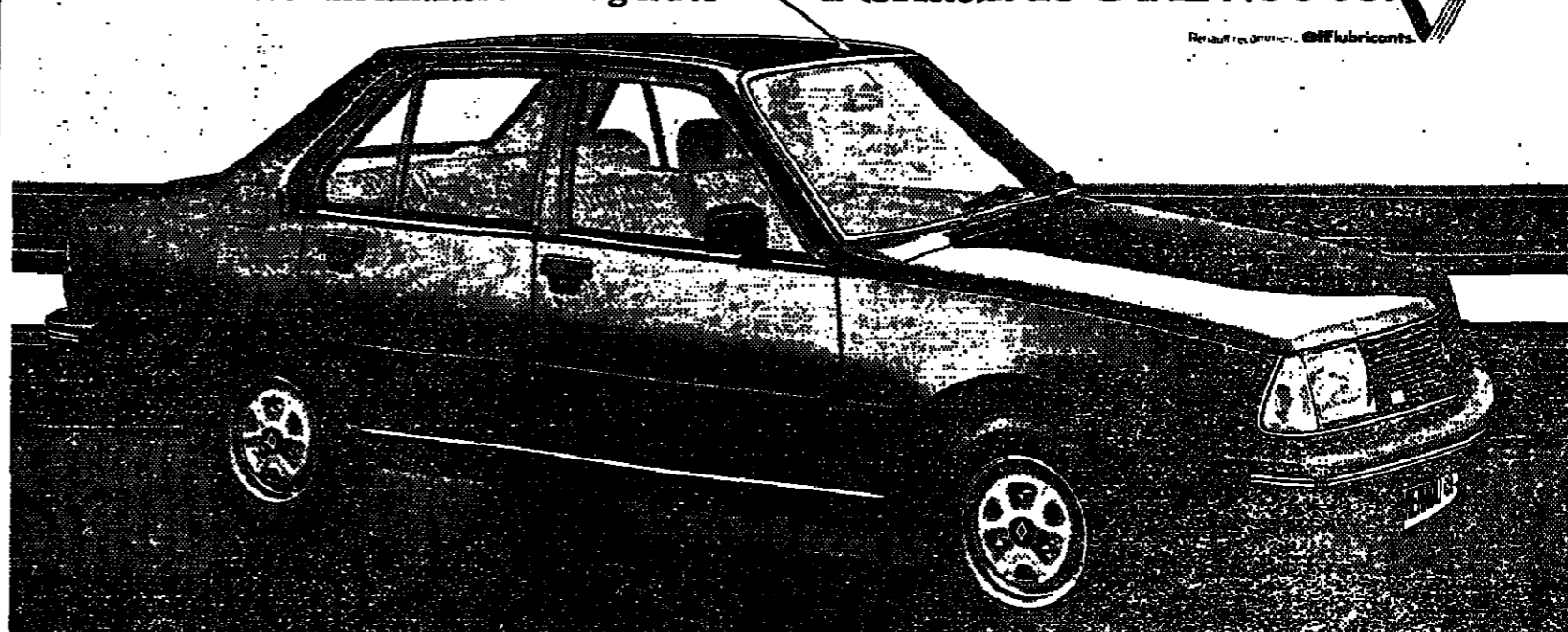
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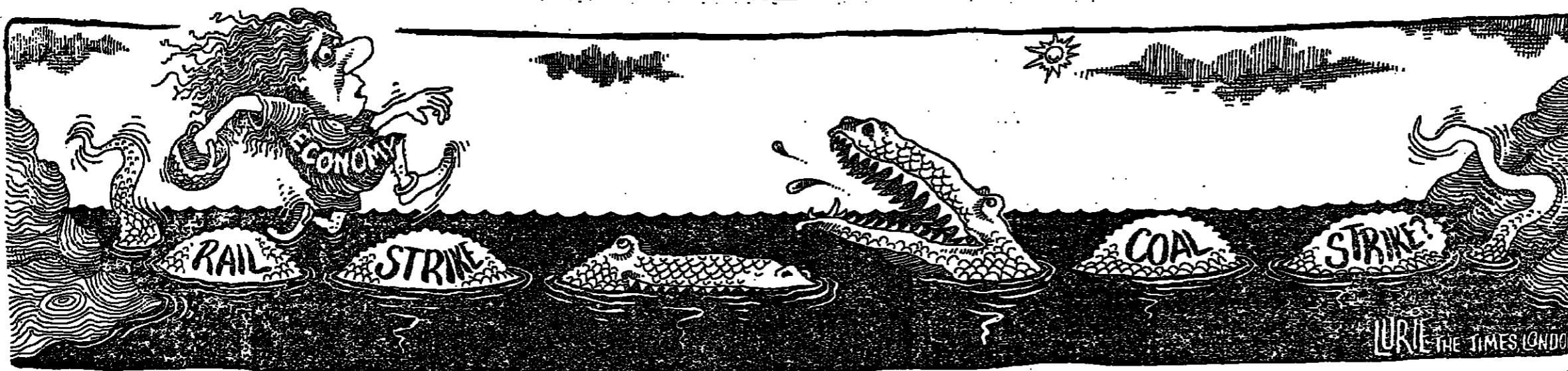
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Puzzle of London rate rebates

By David Walker

Fewer than 15,000 London households and firms have asked for a refund of the supplementary rate levied in the autumn to pay for the Greater London Council's "Fares Fair" cheap travel policy.

An estimated 600,000 of Greater London's 3.2 million ratepayers have paid some of the levy before the Court of Appeal declared it illegal in November. None will get interest and few will get a cash refund because most borough councils intend to credit ratepayers' ordinary accounts.

However, some councils are preparing to repay the supplementary rates whether ratepayers ask or not. For example, 17,000 people in the borough of Barnet who paid the rate will get the money back in a week or so. They

will get a cash refund or have their February rates instalments adjusted. Council tenants will have their combined rent and rates payments temporarily reduced. If the Prime Minister, who maintains a home in Flood Street, had paid the supplementary rate, she would have to ask Kensington and Chelsea borough council for a refund, but so far about only a hundred requests have been made.

Most boroughs have rescinded the supplementary rate levied by the GLC fares ruling. Camden has been advised that the rating laws prohibit boroughs from making a fresh levy while they hold money in their reserves.

The London Boroughs Association has received conflicting opinion, but until the issue is settled, the inner-London councils will not make a final decision and will

The London Boroughs Association has advised that a fresh rate has to be levied to cover this amount. In some cases supplementary rates already paid will be credited against the new charge.

Westminster is likely to levy a fresh rate, but neighbouring Camden plans to pay ILEA out of its cash reserves.

That policy difference emerges from yet another of the legal puzzles uncovered by the GLC fares ruling. Camden has been advised that the rating laws prohibit boroughs from making a fresh levy while they hold money in their reserves.

The London Boroughs Association has received conflicting opinion, but until the issue is settled, the inner-London councils will not make a final decision and will

be unable to repay any money.

Mr John Marlowe, director of finance in Camden, explained that much as he would like a settlement, he cannot by law repay the 500 local ratepayers who have asked for a refund until the council rescinds the old supplementary rate and decides on a new one.

Mr Marlowe said the idea that supplementary rate payers should get interest was misconceived. The cost of calculating interest was high, and so would impose a burden on all ratepayers. He said it was not in their interest and was therefore probably illegal.

□ Somerset County Council's rates are to increase in 1982-83 by only 6.9 per cent, which is likely to be one of the lowest rises in the country.

Import of whales to be curbed

By David Nicholson-Lord

The Government seems certain to tighten its restrictions on the import of dolphins and killer whales for oceanaria after the death in captivity last month of a whale newly shipped from Iceland.

The whale, one of three brought to a dolphinarium at Clacton Pier, Essex, apparently suffered a ruptured kidney after being bitten by its companions.

But scientists from the Nature Conservancy Council believe lack of space in the pool may have been partly responsible and they are understood to have rejected an application by Clacton to import a fourth whale as a replacement.

Mr Tom King, the Minister of State for the Environment, is being recommended to lay down stricter guidelines for the granting of import licences. Those are thought to cover standards of transport and accommodation.

They may likely to affect the operations of many smaller oceanaria, particularly if they are applied to animals already in Britain.

Imports matter to oceanaria because cetaceans generally, and certainly the killer whale, do not breed in captivity.

But the Clacton case has also highlighted aspects of the Endangered Species Act of 1976 which have drawn fire from conservationists and, in one instance been acknowledged as anomalous by Department of Environment officials.

When granting licences under the Act, for example, the department is not required to take account of the welfare of the animals in the exporting country.

The three Clacton whales were kept in Iceland in a "seaquarium" where conditions have been alleged by Greenpeace, the international environment group, to be disgraceful.

Incidents at the seaquarium, it says, include two whales in an exposed pool dying of frostbite.

The Clacton case has been raised in a Commons question by Mr Tam Dalyell, Labour's science spokesman, who said yesterday that the dimensions of the pool housing the three animals appeared totally inadequate.

Mr David Howe, director of Clacton Pier, declined to comment.

According to Mr Mark Glover, Greenpeace wildlife campaigner, the trade in whales is legal, "but we still think it is wrong."

Police union chief criticizes Scarman

by Peter Evans, Home Affairs Correspondent

Mr James Jardine, chairman of the Police Federation last night criticized Lord Scarman's diagnosis of one of the causes of the Brixton riots.

He spoke of "an upside down world" in which Lord Scarman was persuaded to believe that action against cause and Commander Brian Fairbairn, the officer in charge locally, had felt it necessary to apologize for high-profile policing.

"In my view Lord Scarman has not been able to provide a satisfactory answer to the most important question that he asked: 'How do the police in the inner city deal with a very high level of street crime, while at the same time retaining the support of all?'"

Mr Jardine, speaking in Guildford, Surrey, said that many old people were afraid to go out in the areas in which they were born and bred and spent the whole of their lives.

A police commander had to look for measures to bring short-term results when faced with a surge of muggings. It would not be stopped by doubling the number of officers sent round to schools to talk to children. Nor would public appeals to the muggers work.

The only way was to cut dramatically the odds against a mugger being caught by making sure the police were on the streets.

But he agreed with Lord Scarman that police training should be improved.

Mr Jardine wants probationer police officers to have longer and better training. "We are not going to be fobbed off with a couple of extra weeks for lectures on how to be polite to the public, the meaning of body language or the exact significance of a Rastafarian's dreadlocks."

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Candle ban at Manilow concerts

Fans of Barry Manilow were banned yesterday from performing the ritual of lighting candles for the American singer at the end of his Manchester concert. The city council's environmental services committee told the management of the Apollo theatre that because of the fire risk it must take all steps to stop people taking candles into the auditorium.

The council said that if the management failed it would be prosecuted for breaching the conditions of its licence, and it could be revoked. Defiance of the ban could lead to a high court injunction to stop performances tonight and tomorrow.

"There are no candles to be lit by Barry Manilow or his entourage on the stage," the council added. A press officer for the singer said yesterday: "I have spoken to the promoters and they are aware of the situation. As they come in people are being told not to bring candles, and the situation will be monitored."

Ex-detective killed himself

A former detective superintendent stabbed himself through the heart because he was anxious and depressed, an inquest at Oxford was told yesterday.

Mr Philip Fairweather, aged 58, was found lying in the back garden of his home at Kidlington, Oxfordshire, on December 8. A kitchen knife was besides his body.

Mr Fairweather's wife, Mrs Barbara Fairweather, said her husband had attempted suicide once in the weeks before he died. "Something was causing him great distress and continuous worry," she said.

Mr Nicholas Gardiner, the coroner, recorded a verdict of suicide.

Sark seeks own stamps

Sark's Parliament decided yesterday to ask Guernsey's post office board to issue regional stamps for the feudal island, which has a population of only 490.

The move comes after Guernsey's agreement to issue stamps for Alderney, which had considered running its own postal service.

Fitter gets new heart

Mr Donal Nelson, aged 47, a maintenance fitter from Eastcote, Middlesex, received a new heart in a transplant operation at Hatfield Hospital, Middlesex, yesterday.

It is the twenty-seventh heart transplant to be performed at the hospital by Mr Magdi Yacoub the surgeon, and his team. His condition was said to be good last night.

Scaffolder dies in fall

Mr Patrick Carey, aged 48, of Drake's Avenue, Didcot, Oxfordshire, fell to his death on a 15ft metal platform while dismantling scaffolding at Didcot power station yesterday.

Man admits shooting McAliskey

An electrician yesterday admitted attempting to murder Mrs Bernadette McAliskey, the former MP for Mid Ulster, and her husband, Mr Michael McAliskey, who were shot at their home near Coalisland, Co Tyrone, last year.

Andrew Wilson, aged 25, of Seymour Hill, Dunmurry, admitted 17 charges, including having guns and bombs, causing explosions and trying to kill Mr William McConville, a Roman Catholic garage owner, at Dromard, Co Down, in November 1980.

Crown Court deferred sentence while three other men face trial on similar charges.

Thomas Graham, aged 39, of Carnogher Road, and Raymond Smallwoods, aged 31, of Edenvale Gardens, both Lisburn, Co Antrim, each deny two charges of attempted murder. Both face three other charges. Their trial is expected to start today.

A fourth man, Julian Nelson, aged 25, from Dromore Street, Ballynahinch, Co Down, denies attempting to murder Mr McConville and two other charges.

□ Army bomb disposal men yesterday defused two bombs in a petrol tanker close to the Northern Ireland border. The tanker was abandoned by the Provisional IRA under a rail bridge at Meigh, south of Newry, on Sunday, and the bombs had been disrupting rail services.

Graduates face bleak job prospects

By Diana Geddes, Education Correspondent

The employment situation facing this year's university and polytechnic graduates is expected to be the worst since the Second World War, according to the three main organizations involved in graduate supply and demand.

Representatives of the Association of Graduate Careers Advisory Services, the Standing Conference of Employers of Graduates and the Central Services Unit for Careers and Appointments Services predicted yesterday that up to 20 per cent of this year's graduates could still be seeking jobs six months after graduation.

In a normal year 5-6 per cent can expect to be employed by the end of the year and polytechnic graduates in 1980 that figure rose to 8½ per cent, and early estimates suggest that about 13 per cent of last summer's graduates are still jobless.

The unemployment rate among polytechnic graduates is as usual, higher than among university graduates, averaging 15 to 16 per cent, but rising in some cases to 30 per cent. Universities like Manchester and London are reporting unemployment rates among last summer's graduates of about 11 to 12 per cent.

The situation is expected to worsen, partly because there will be about 5 per cent more graduates seeking 10 per cent fewer jobs.

However, Mr David Jowett, chairman of the standing conference, predicted an improved demand for graduates within two or three years.

Mr Brian Putt, director of the central service unit, also saw signs that the worst might nearly be over.

As in the past, graduates in arts, some social science subjects, and the biological sciences could find difficulty in getting jobs this year, Mr Jowett said.

But even engineers and physical scientists, may now have to be prepared to look outside the confines of their subject.

□ Hampshire Education Authority yesterday defended a £41,000 voluntary redundancy payment for a senior official after criticism from the National Union of Teachers (the Press Association reports). The authority confirmed that Mr Geoffrey Lumb, aged 60, one of two deputy county education officers, had accepted voluntary redundancy from April after an economy review.

Mr Lumb will get a lump sum superannuation of £30,000 and a redundancy payment of £11,000, on top of his £10,000 a year pension.

Mr Jack Chambers, president of the National Union of Teachers said teachers seeking early retirement should get a similar "square deal."

Trident 'no more of a deterrent'

By Henry Stanhope, Defence Correspondent

The purchase of the Trident nuclear missile to succeed Polaris in the 1990s should make little difference to Britain's security, Lord Zuckerman, former Chief Scientific Adviser to the Government, said yesterday.

It would not help Britain to discover a new role in the world, nor replace that which she lost with the Empire. As for the argument that the four Polaris submarines would have worn out by 1990, he said that one should despair of the Western world if international relations had not lost their warlike tone by then.

"We accept the threat now as if it were toothpaste", Lord Zuckerman said at a press conference in London called to introduce his book *Nuclear Illusion and Reality*.

In the book Lord Zuckerman says that there are powerful reasons why Britain should not opt for unilateral disarmament. "Nuclear weapons exist, the knowledge of how to make them exists and cannot be made to vanish", he says.

If Britain were to switch her resources to improving her conventional forces she would play a far more influential role in the defence of the free world than she does at present. He urged speedy progress towards a comprehensive test ban.

Part of the property stolen included the icons, snuff box and cigarette case. In May, 1980, Addersman sold the snuff box and case to Eckstine for £1,200 and a carriage clock for £1,000.

He left the icons with a Chelsea dealer. Addersman told the jury he had previous convictions and had served two prison sentences. Since about 1973 he had been a police informer, because he had been "treated badly by the criminal fraternity."

He told the court he had been asked by a high-ranking Flying Squad officer if he had any information about stolen art treasures. When asked by a man in Soho to sell the Crosby property he agreed, believing he could trust the confidence of art thieves. "The police did not tell me to sell the property, but I had to prove to the man that I was one of them," Addersman said.

Chauffeur sold Crosby antiques

A chauffeur who told a jury at Middlesex Crown Court that he was a police informer, claiming he sold antiques worth £19,500 stolen from the late Bing Crosby, to gain the confidence of art thieves.

Stanley Reginald Addersman, aged 56, of Bulstrode Road, Hounslow, was convicted yesterday of dishonestly assisting in the realization or disposal of a gold snuff box, a gold enamelled cigarette case and two Russian icons, and obtaining £1,200 and a carriage clock from Ekstine Ltd, antique dealers, of Jermyn Street, Westminster, by deception.

Mr Georges Khayat, for the prosecution, said that during Bing Crosby's last tour in October, 1977, his flat in Davies Street, Mayfair, was burgled while he was on stage at the London Palladium.

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Plea to Joseph on Welsh activist

From Our Correspondent Ludlow

Parents in mid Wales have sent a telegram to Sir Keith Joseph, the Secretary of State for Education, urging him to allow Mr Wayne Williams, the Welsh language activist, to keep his teaching job.

A High Court judge suspended Mr Williams, a former chairman of the Welsh Language Society, from teaching Welsh at Llanidloes High School, Powys, after parents said they did not want him teaching their children because of his conviction and prison sentence for conspiracy to damage broadcasting equipment.

But there is growing support for Mr Williams. One hundred and fifty people attended a meeting at Llanidloes on Tuesday, and decided to send a telegram to Sir Keith.

A spokesman for parents supporting Mr Williams said: "He is an excellent teacher and has never attempted to introduce his political views into the classroom."

Mr Williams, 28, has spoken of his experiences in Swansea prison, where he served six months of his nine-month sentence (Tony Samstag writes).

He said he had been appalled at the number of people unable to read or write, who consequently



Mr Wayne Williams: Banned from school.

□ Mr Williams, aged 28, has spoken of his experiences in Swansea prison, where he served six months of his nine-month sentence (Tony Samstag writes).

He said he had been appalled at the number of people unable to read or write, who consequently

spent much of their day sitting around with nothing to do. He said he had offered to teach remedial reading, his offer was refused.

Mr Williams, who was released at Christmas, travelled to London on Monday to put his case for reinstatement to the Department of Education and Science. He felt his interlocutors had been "very fair in the whole matter, although they were not really at fault with anything that has happened in Wales."

He emphasized that he had been convicted because of his formal responsibility as chairman of the Welsh Language Society for activities in which he played no direct part.

His chairmanship had since expired and under society rules he could not hold the position again.

The department had assured him that it was aware of the element of urgency in his case, although there was no indication when a decision might be made.

Government action on fuel bills urged

by Pat Healy, Social Services Correspondent

The National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux yesterday demanded immediate Government intervention to help people unable to pay their fuel bills. The association, which is responsible for the growing amount of fuel poverty which last year led to about 400,000 people seeking help from local bureaux.

"Our bureaux are already inundated with inquiries from people with serious and multiple debts, among which those for fuel inevitably loom large", Lady Ricketts, chairman of the association, said yesterday.

"I dread to think what the situation will be when fuel bills for the current quarter, with its unusually hard weather, start coming in. It is essential that action is taken immediately to meet an exceptional situation."

The association, in its response to a review of the fuel industries code of practice conducted by the Policy Studies Institute, said the basic difficulty could not be resolved without reference to fuel poverty. That was caused by low incomes combined with the high and increasing cost of fuel.

"The high cost of fuel is a result of government policy and unless this is changed, and, for example, fuel subsidies are reintroduced, the fuel industries can do little to lighten the burden on

the domestic consumer", the association said.

The association also said that only government action could remedy the fuel poverty problem. It cited several case studies from bureaux files to illustrate the difficulties some people experienced over their fuel bills.

One pensioner faced with an electricity bill for £116 took a job at a holiday camp to try to pay it at £10 a week. A single parent earning £54 a week and paying £10.48 rent received a bill for £10.19 because the electricity board said the meter had not been read for three years.

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NEWS IN SUMMARY

Crash jet's black box found

Washington. — The chances of discovering the cause of the crash of the Air Florida jet in Washington a week ago rose as recovery teams brought the aircraft's "black box" recorders from the icy Potomac. (Nicholas Hirst writes).

A spokesman for the National Transportation Safety Board said divers recovered the flight data recorder and cockpit voice recorder from the river shortly after resuming the recovery operations. The flight recorders are particularly valuable in pinpointing the cause of the crash.

Salvage teams had hoped to recover the recorder when the tail section of the aircraft was lifted but they appear to have slipped back into the river as the wreckage was raised. Seventy-eight people died in the crash.

Gaddafi's secret Algiers mission

Algiers. — Colonel Gaddafi, President Chadli of Algeria continued their talks on the third day of the Libyan leader's unexpected visit here.

The details have been kept secret but an Algerian official source said that Colonel Gaddafi was emphasizing the need to "close Arab ranks" against Israel and the United States. There was no confirmation of a claim by the Libyan news agency that the two leaders had reached agreement on important preliminary steps to union between the neighbouring countries.

Iran bans women from ski slopes

Tehran. — Women have been forced off the ski slopes at Dizin, Iran's most popular winter resort, after an Islamic cleric said their presence was leading to un-Islamic and unscrupulous activity.

Local sources said the district's revolutionary prosecutor had been alarmed at the tight clothes worn by women skiers.

250th oil death

Madrid. — A 12-year-old girl became the 250th person to die from consuming toxic cooking oil in Spain since last May. More than 400 other victims are still in hospital.

Paris to force through bank nationalization

From Charles Hargrove, Paris, Jan. 20

The socialists will resort to the blocked vote procedure, which they frequently condemned when it was used by conservative governments in the past, to get the new nationalization through the French parliament in record time.

Three days after the Constitutional Council's decision that the original Bill was unconstitutional, the Cabinet today approved the new draft and decided to make it a matter of confidence. This means it will be regarded as adopted without a vote unless a motion of censure is carried against it. With the present Socialist absolute majority in the assembly there is no risk of that.

It is the first time the Socialist Government has used this procedure. M Raymond Barre, when he was Prime Minister, resorted to it several times, notably at the end of 1979, to secure the passage of the budget.

The Socialists declared at the time that the use of the blocked vote was contrary to the spirit of the constitution. But to avoid the risk of delay and obstruction by the opposition, and to reduce to a minimum the period of economically damaging uncertainty before the nationalization takes effect, they have resigned themselves to using it now, some socialist leaders even suggested that the Government should carry out the nationalization by decree.

As it is, the Government is being compelled to carry out the nationalization of banks, as it was of industrial firms,

in two stages. Eighteen out of 36, which are not quoted on the stock exchange, will not be nationalized before the beginning of next year after a special committee of experts has estimated the value of their shares.

The new nationalization bill complies with the decision of the constitutional council. It drops the method of compensation for shareholders proposed in the previous bill and proposes that it should now be calculated on the basis of the highest market price in the six months to March last year, with a 14 per cent appreciation to allow for monetary erosion.

This means that most of the shareholders will get more than under the previous proposals but some will receive less. The cost to the government, and therefore to the taxpayer, will be some 8,000m francs (£730m).

M Laurent Fabius, the Budget Minister, suggested yesterday that the increased cost should be financed by the rich, through a raising of the wealth tax or companies tax. The Socialist and Communist parties and the trades unions agree, but to do this would hardly encourage employers to invest and the Government is in something of a cleft stick.

This inevitably may lead the left to step up its attacks against the Constitutional Council, which it regards as a reactionary institution that has gone against the popular will. In fact, since the left took office the council has rejected a number of actions against Government Bills.

Drug squad chief accused over undercover deals

From Ian Murray, Brussels, Jan 20

The founder, leader and inspiration of Belgium's elite anti-drug squad (BND), Commandant Léon François, went on trial in Brussels this week on charges connected with the drugs trade.

There are 14 other names on the charge sheet—including that of an agent of the American Drugs Enforcement Administration and three other BND officers. Also on trial is the method of fighting drugs trade in Belgium as it has been created by Commandant François over the past decade.

In the early 1970's he was sent to the United States to study methods of tackling the narcotics trade. His training taught him that it was the accepted practice in America for drugs enforcement officers to work undercover, buying and selling narcotics in order to be able to trace networks to their source.

This was contrary to Belgium Law, but Commandant François was able to convince his superiors that it was the only way in which to produce results. Accordingly, a blind eye was initially turned on his small squad's

activities. Working undercover they were allowed to drive cars with false number plates and buy themselves into the confidence of the underworld.

The squad became quickly effective. In 1975 Commandant François began tracing the way drugs came into Europe through American Air Force bases. The BND found a good informer, and Commandant François was able to "borrow" 1.6m Belgian francs (£191,500) through the police in order to buy into a cocaine drug ring.

From then on things began to go wrong. The drugs were bought and then found to be of poor quality. The potential buyer withdrew and the BND found itself having to try to recoup the money. A first attempt to sell the poor quality drug to coloured American servicemen failed. Commandant François took the initiative to have the drug purified and mixed with an analgesic powder in order to sell it in Holland.

This much of the evidence has been admitted by Commandant François, who has told the court that he was

merely following methods used in the United States to break drug rings. The prosecution has alleged, however, that his real aim was to pocket the money.

He is also alleged to have appropriated two kilograms (4.4lb) of cocaine used to help to train police dogs to sniff out drugs. This was added to the purified quantity and offered for sale to two Dutchmen with whom contact was established in Breda. The Dutchmen turned out to be undercover agents for the Dutch narcotics squad.

Arrigo Levi: A Personal View

Berlinguer party at turning point

There is no doubt that the new official statements by the Italian Communist Party on the Polish crisis and the Soviet system represent a turning point in the history of the party, and in Italian history.

They amount to an "excommunication" of the Soviet Communist Party, they declare that it has exhausted its propelling force and indicate that its "serious pressures" and "unacceptable interferences" are the main reasons for the Polish tragedy and for all the "dramatic recurring crises" in Eastern Europe.

This analysis is accompanied by a total ideological rejection of the Soviet model and by a categorical statement that democracy is necessary for socialism, which might have been signed by Karl Kautsky.

Some of the oldest of the Italian Communists Party (PCI) now recognized that the split caused by the Communists in the Italian Socialist Party in 1921 was a fatal mistake; and that the great social-democratic leader of the time, Filippo Turati, was right when he condemned the split and said that the Communists would, one day, recognize their error.

These are weighty words, though obviously they have come very late. The returning prodigal son is always met by a warm reception. In this particular case, as a matter of fact, the reception by Italy's democratic parties has been mixed.

Everybody has welcomed these resolutions, and the fact that they were reached through an open debate in the party before being approved by its central committee with the sole opposition of Signor Armando Cossutta.

The Christian Democrats, through their leader Signor Giampaolo Pansa, have gone as far as admitting that after this turning point in the history of the PCI, the Communist problem appears in a new light. This admission implies that the possibility of government cooperation with the Communists could again be considered by the Christian Democrats. Indeed, the "Communist problem" should be a central issue in the Christian Democratic Party's conference to be held next April.

But these views are not universal. The Socialist leaders have been very critical of the fact that the PCI, while rejecting the Soviet model, still demands in harsh terms the social democratic experience in the West, while obscurely suggesting that a new third way must be found. The Socialists reply: there is no third way, the lack of a clear Western choice by the PCI still reveals many ambiguities and dangers.

There will be many more such debates between the PCI and the other parties. Indeed, it is important that the Communists should be kept under constant pressure, considering the strong resistance against the announced changes in the party line by a considerable portion of the Communist rank and file. A counter-pressure from outside the party is necessary and useful.

But it seems to me that the real problem in the near future will not be that of measuring correctly, day by day, the progress towards the Western home. I believe that what has happened will by itself already remove many of the ideological obstacles that have prevented the PCI from being accepted as a potential government partner by the other parties, and by Italy's allies.

From now on, Signor Enrico Berlinguer, the Communist leader, will seriously challenge the attempt of Signor Bettino Craxi, the Socialist leader, to become the arbiter of Italian politics.

At present, in the middle of a serious East-West crisis, there remain many obstacles which make it impossible for the PCI to join a government coalition. The PCI opposes any realignment against the Soviet Union or Poland, or any limitation of the West's economic assistance to Poland; it also opposes NATO's Euro-missiles. If the PCI had been a member of a government coalition right now, a government crisis might have been unavoidable.

But while many responsible people consider that the Communist presence in a government coalition now would be a very bad thing and would weaken the West (and I share this view), the conditions might change.

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Dankert to cut EEC red tape

From George Clark, Strasbourg, Jan 20



Mr Piet Dankert: The people's champion

Mr Piet Dankert, the Dutch Socialist, who was elected last night as president of the European Parliament, said today that he intended to go over the heads of the Council of Ministers and EEC commission to the member-states' governments and parliaments to enlist their aid in obtaining greater legislative powers for the European Parliament.

He said he would include in his personal cabinet people from different parts of the EEC, including someone from Britain, so that he will have direct links with politicians and ministers in the European capitals.

Although MEPs of all parties welcomed Mr Dankert's firm commitment to what he called the struggle to increase Parliament's powers and influence, and to justify its existence to the European electorate, the Conservatives were doubtful about his plan for "direct links".

In his first speech as president, Mr Dankert paid generous tribute to the achievements of Mme Simone Veil, his predecessor, both in Parliament and on the world stage. He quoted Mr David Wood of *The Times* as saying that she had succeeded in getting the Parliament accepted as a presence if not a power, in international relations.

He won applause for his declaration that before the next direct elections in 1984 the Parliament had to demonstrate to the electors that it could play a positive role in determining the Community's policies.

Mr Dankert is acknowledged by members of most

his arguments, the MEPs rejected the budget, and the struggle began to assert Parliament's right to influence the political aims of the Community, as expressed through expenditure.

Mr Dankert was particularly intent on cutting back the proportion of the budget that went to agriculture, and putting more into social and regional spending as the world economic depression deepened and unemployment figures increased.

Since then he has been a member of the Parliament's conciliation delegation which waits on the Council of Ministers when there is a budget dispute — there has been each year since MEPs were directly elected — and he has earned the reputation of being an astute negotiator.

As an apprenticeship to the job he now takes over, he has been a vice-president (deputy speaker) at the plenary sessions since 1979.

Mr Dankert was born in Steins, in The Netherlands, read history and became a secondary school teacher. From 1960 to 1962, he was chairman of the Young Socialists in his country and excelled in the Socialist Young Political Leaders' Association. From 1963 to 1971, he was deputy, then chief international secretary of the Dutch Labour Party, becoming a member of the European Parliament in 1973.

From 1968 to 1981 he was an elected member of the Dutch Parliament.

Zimbabwe white exodus slackens

From Stephen Taylor, Salisbury, Jan 20

There is some cheer for the Zimbabwe Government in the latest emigration statistics which show a sharp drop in the number of skilled whites leaving the country. The figure of 1,005 for November was the lowest for any month since before independence and was down by almost half on October.

However, the overall number of emigrants for the first 11 months of the year went up to 18,747 more than have left in any full year.

While the November figure suggests that perhaps the departure rate has bottomed out, sources gave a warning against over-optimism, pointing out that prospective emigrants with children at school might have delayed their departure until the end of December.

November also brought good news in the shape of the number of skilled immigrants to the country. Five departing engineers were replaced by 19 arriving and although three doctors left eight others arrived. There was a substantial gain in teachers but a net loss among mechanical workers.

The departure of Zimbabweans with skills, mainly to South Africa but also to Australia, remains one of the country's most pressing problems. Their replacement by expatriates, many on contracts, can only be a temporary measure.

Ministers cleared of Bihar blindings

From Kuldip Nayar, Delhi, Jan 20

The Central Bureau of Investigation has absolved the Bihar Government of complicity or negligence in the blinding of 32 people awaiting trial by the state police. However, the Deputy Inspector-General of Police and the district magistrate in Bhagalpur are found to have had prior knowledge of the practice of blindings and not acting to prevent it.

The Supreme Court of India is hearing a case in which as many as 32 people are said to have been blinded between July and November, 1980, and that Mr Jagannath Mishra, the Chief Minister of Bihar, did not act to stop the blindings even when he was allegedly told about them in September 1980.

The Supreme Court had requested the central Government to find out how far the state was involved in the incidents.

In its report, the Central Bureau of Investigation says the blindings were only an instance of isolated crime, without any conspiracy.

The blindings had rocked India and the debate has continued since. The bureau findings will have wide repercussions because it tries to shift the blame away from the Chief Minister and top state officials. Both the opposition and the press have been pressing Mrs Indira Gandhi, the Prime Minister, to dismiss the Bihar government for refraining from action when it had "prior knowledge" of the blindings.

The Bihar CID had registered 24 cases against the

police in December, 1980. The bureau says that there is evidence for criminal prosecution in 10 of them. In nine cases there was not enough evidence and hence it recommended only departmental action. In the remaining five cases, no one was found responsible.

Ten people were killed and at least 35 injured in the states of West Bengal, Uttar Pradesh, Kerala and Tamil Nadu after one-day strikes throughout the country yesterday to protest against low wages and repressive measures of the central Government.

Official sources said that six of the deaths were in clashes between supporters and opponents of the strike and the rest were killed when the police opened fire.

More than 10,000 arrests were made in different states in the last two days. Among them are 10 MPs.

The strike was almost total in the communist-run state of West Bengal and Tripura. An official release said that in key economic sectors like petroleum, fertilizers, steel, telecommunications and large transport were, by and large, normal everywhere, but the functioning of banks and insurance offices were disrupted.

No daily newspaper, except for the Congress (I) Party's *National Herald* came out in Delhi. The flow of information was inadequate since the two main news agencies, Press Trust of India and the United News of India, were on strike.

Moonshine enjoys a timely success

From Christopher Thomas, New York, Jan 20

A company in North Caldwell, New Jersey, is reporting brisk sales of a one-handed clock with a cycle of 24 hours, 50 minutes and 30 seconds, which supposedly helps to keep track of body rhythms.

It is geared to the passage of the moon which, if the company's salesmen are to be believed, governs a person's state of mind. Mr Louis Schelling, the inventor, said: "With the knowledge that the moon's effect is maximum at noon today you might schedule lunch with an important client."

He contends that the moon's cycle matches the human body's circadian rhythm.

His claims, however, have brought a swift response from Mr Wilse Webb, a psychologist at University of Florida's sleep research centre and one of the country's leading authorities on the subject. He said the lunar cycle was 15 to 20 minutes shorter than the average person's circadian cycle and the evidence that the moon influenced human behaviour was "very, very weak".

Mr Schelling claims that he is selling the clock to colleges, doctors, astronomers and people interested in astrology. But in an unguarded moment he confessed: "I Don't believe in it myself."

Sihanouk aid plea to China

From David Bonavia, Peking, Jan 20

Prince Norodom Sihanouk, the deposed Cambodian leader, says he will again serve as head of state if China can help him and his supporters and other resistance groups to drive out the Vietnamese occupation forces.

Last year Prince Sihanouk declared his irreversible retirement from politics. However, he said in an interview here that China was his best friend, and he would do whatever China wanted. He said he knew the Khmer Rouge did not want him to lead a coalition consisting of themselves, his supporters and the anti-communist nationalist forces led by Mr Son Sann, a former Prime Minister.

Accepting that his future role will have to be determined by outside forces, Prince Sihanouk said: "That is all right by me."

The flamboyant former ruler who helped the North Vietnamese in their war against South Vietnam and the United States, said he now had only a few hundred armed followers, but could have many thousands if China would supply arms, food and medicine.

Asked why he formerly allowed eastern Cambodia to be used as a transit route and sanctuary for the North Vietnamese and the Vietcong, he said that in the 1960s he had no other option.

Fighting grows: A wave of refugees crossed the Cambodian border into Thailand last night after the third day of intensified fighting between Vietnamese-led forces and the Khmer Rouge (David Watts writes from Bangkok).

The fighting is the latest manifestation of the new Vietnamese policy of using forces of main force strength to attack Khmer Rouge strongholds and to turn over as much of the fighting as possible to troops of the Vietnamese-backed Government.

According to the Thai Supreme Command, about 3,000 refugees have fled into Thailand. They are expected to return to Cambodia as soon as the fighting dies down.

The Thais are afraid that this latest outbreak of heavy fighting, which follows a heavy attack on a key Khmer Rouge supply base, could spill across the border.

Japanese to ban sex tours

From Peter Hazelhurst, Tokyo, Jan 20

The Japanese Government is drawing up legislation to prevent Japanese men from travelling to the developing nations of Asia in large groups on organized sex tours.

A draft Bill to penalize travel agents who organize group sex tours was first suggested last year after many politicians said the practice was tarnishing Japan's reputation in North-East and South-East Asia.

A champion of the proposed legislation, Miss Takako Doi, a Socialist MP, told Parliament recently that the "sex tours" cast great shame over Japan's image. There is no other country whose men travel abroad in organized groups to purchase women in groups. There have also been protests from women's rights organizations in the Philippines and South Korea in recent months.

The proposed ban on sex tours is expected to be introduced by the Ministry of Transport in the form of a Bill which will revise the regulations under which travel agents obtain their licences. Travel agents will lose their licences if they organize group tours which offer "services" in violation of the laws of foreign countries.

The proposed steps against disreputable travel agents were announced in the wake of another recent scandal over the behaviour of Japanese businessmen who are posted abroad. Japan's large trading houses are up in arms because Mr Michio Watanabe, Japan's Minister of Finance, recently alleged that businessmen spoil the country's image by ostentatiously enjoying themselves abroad.

"Japanese businessmen never contribute towards charities and churches when they are abroad. They engage in drunken revelry night after night, in night clubs, creating a bad impression."

In any event, Japan's image has been tarnished in recent years by a spate of organized sex tours to South Korea, Thailand, the Philippines and other countries.

Reputable travel agents who oppose the practice estimate that as many as 1.5 million Japanese men travel in all-male groups to Korea and South-East Asia every year after paying a package price for their fare, hotel rooms, cabaret shows, and the promise of sex.



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Unesco tries to get cash for Third World media

From Stephen Downer, Mexico City, Jan 20

Third World delegates attending the Unesco conference on the International Programme for the Development of Communication in Acapulco have accused Western nations of controlling Third World news. Mr Christopher Nacimiento, of Guyana, claimed yesterday, at the first working day of the conference, that the plight of the world's poorest was "not as portrayed by the media monopoly of the North".

The seven day conference, inaugurated by President José Lopez Portillo of Mexico, on Monday, is seeking ways of funding improved mass communications in the poor countries of Asia, Africa and Latin America.

It is the second conference organized by the United Nations body which is trying to satisfy Third World re-

quests for \$73m (£38m). So far only \$5m (£2.6m) has been promised. The United States and some other industrialized countries have refused to give money to the scheme, although they have said they will fund some Third World communications programmes directly.

Many Western publishers and editors believe that the money may be used to establish government media monopolies and to control the information flowing in and out of a country.

Mr Charles Scripps, president of the Inter-American Press Association and the head of the Scripps newspaper chain, said his association did not oppose the creation of new news outlets. But he thought they might be used to restrict the work of journalists.

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and grandchildren.

Proceeds from the estate which accrued to the dependants who made the claim would be left out of account in assessing damages. This would benefit claimants because they would get thereby a larger sum by way of award.

It was suggested to introduce a provision for damages for bereavement. Among a number of other minor proposals it had been decided to consider the proposal for provisional damages if a comprehensive income scheme for all disabled people varying according to the severity of the disablement, meeting the extra expenses created by the disability and compensating for the restrictions the disability may create.

He believed there would be agreement on the need for legislation.

Lord Winstanley (L) said he was glad to hear the Lord Chancellor's proposed measures.

As a lay person he could not fail to be struck by the rather embarrassing and sometimes distressing occasions in court when a son had to sue his father, or a mother had to sue her daughter, in order to finally establish which party to an insurance company had to pay

Bill for significant supplies of natural gas to have an effect on industrial gas prices in this country.

Mr. Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy, said that the Bill was an affront to every tradition of Parliamentary democracy and legislative scrutiny.

The Bill would lead to higher gas prices, a squandering of vital resources, a loss of control of the nation's oil supplies, and to the sale of national assets at prices far below reserve value.

Mr. Hamish Gray, Minister of State for Energy, said the Bill was a necessary step forward to ensure that the Government in North Sea exploration and production and broke the monopoly of the existing supply of gas, which had resulted in a stagnant gas market, a waste of resources, and a loss of gas resources, and complaints about the ability to supply.

It would be the Government's intention that the articles of association of Britoil should be made available during the process.

Mr. Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales, said after making a statement on the situation.

He told Mr Raymond Powell (Ogmore, Lab), who had received a letter from him, that the necessary repairs had been made promptly to the Commission by the Government and the Commission was urgently anxious to get the water supply restored.

It is hoped (he said) that the Commission will make an early start on the repairs and that the water will be forthcoming from that source.

The consumption of water in the Ogmore area was normally 400,000 gallons a day, but in the last few days it had been running at 1,000,000 gallons a day because of burst pipes and interruptions to the water supply.

The Welsh Water Authority had been wise to warn of possible shortages of water because of burst pipes. The situation was under control, the water was fit to drink, and although there was a shortage of water, the water supply had not yet been reconnected, they were relatively few in number and were quickly repaired.

Mr Edwards told Mr Powell, who had said that loss of the entire

In parts of Wales still without water, every effort was being made by the Water Board Authority to reconnect the areas affected.

There will obviously be appreciable financial consequences of the Government's decision, in particular for the local authorities who had the primary responsibility for dealing with it, and for the farmers. It is far too early to make a realistic assessment of the consequences.

We shall continue to assess the situation, and to report about the costs incurred by all concerned becomes firmer.

Parliament today

Commons (2.30): Questions: Debarment of Ministers from closure of British Aluminium Smelter at Invergordon. Lords (2): Civil Jurisdiction and Judgments Bill.

fully introduced by Mr Michael Meacher (Oldham West, Lab).

He said as the collection and use of personal data had become increasingly computerised, legislative controls were needed to ensure that governments did not abuse the new technology in the name of efficiency or security.

The Bill would aim to remedy the problems of privacy which arose from several sources. The use of most bugging devices was already illegal, but the Bill would make the obtaining of confidential information by deception was not a criminal offence nor was its use. It would also give a right to bring an action for damages against invasion of privacy, and would give no legal right to see personal files; and criminal records were still taken from secure against private access.

It was wholly in line with the Council of Europe convention for the protection of individuals against automatic processing of personal data which the Government had signed, but not ratified.

The Bill was formally read a

[illegible]

BOOKS

Victoria's eldest child — a princess whom the Germans thought an English spy

The Other Victoria
The Princess Royal and the Great Game of Europe
By Andrew Sinclair

(Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £10)

"My idea of a liberal", replied the Crown Princess of Prussia when her mother had accused her of submitting to the contemporary equivalent of Radical Chic, is simply a commonsense view of things, and a wish to be fair, and tolerant and charitable, and to try to improve at all times that which is wanting; in fact to try to raise each branch of existence into something as good as it can be made, not to change and destroy things because they are old and traditional, nor to preserve what is no longer useful merely because it is old.

It is, as you might expect, an excellent definition. Nearly a decade has passed since Daphne Bennett's splendid and moving *Vicky*, the first life of her subject for many years, reminded us of the eldest child of Victoria and Albert, one of the most articulate, intelligent and sympathetic women the British Royal Family has ever produced.

That *Vicky* remains comparatively little known here even today can only be because she left England to marry Prince Frederick William of Prussia at the age of 15 and spent most of the rest of her life in Berlin. That she is not very well known there, either, is because she was a woman, a reformer and an English. These grave disadvantages are the subject of Andrew Sinclair's lively new book which retells a tale of courage, humour and aspirations pitifully dashed, and does it well, even if the most of *Sylvie (Born to be Queen)* Krin does creep in from time to time.

No Queen of Prussia was ever loved before or after Louise (1776-1810), the brave and duped madonna of Neoclassicism who tackled Napoleon at Tilsit like the heroine of *Emma*. Dying two years later, Louise passed at once into necessary sainthood, from delectable nursery picture-books in the style of Kate Greenaway and Walter Crane, to the stately biscuit-porcelain figures still produced today.

Posterity, which has challenged Bismarck's assumptions on virtually everything else, is content to accept his contemptuous snorts at *Die*



Empress Frederick in 1900, the year before her death

Engländerin, and "The Englishwoman" she has remained; even the exhaustive search conducted for the historic soul of Prussia in Berlin last year, turning whenever possible from the gun and the drum to the less familiar but genuine tradition of enlightenment, tolerance and social reform, could pass from the ideals of 1848 to the rise of Social Democracy without so much as a hiccup of inquiry or acknowledgment to *Vicky* and Fritz. She was foreign; she had no right to a view.

She believed, with both her parents, that the British Constitution was the best and there is no doubt that Victoria and Albert agreed to the marriage of a loved child so early in order to further their vision of Germany allied to England and united in the causes of constitutional monarchy, parliamentary democracy, social and industrial progress, by protestant Prussia. It was a long-term strategy, not a plot, and if, as Wolfgang Prince of Hesse implies in a

himself, who *Vicky* described to her mother as the "most mischievous and dangerous person alive".

The Times had foreseen conflicting areas of interest for the young girl even before betrothal was confirmed in 1856, and indeed there were three: England, Prussia, family. In the early years she wrote brightly of "our dear troops" what the Prussians, marched off to take Schleswig-Holstein from the King of Denmark, although she had earlier helped to effect the marriage of his daughter to her brother the Prince of Wales, in a move intended to embroil Berlin and fortify London than to provide what they had all been seeking for sometime: Somebody nice for Berrie.

By the time of *Beloved Mama*, wearied by two decades of suspicion and constraint when the older children had turned against her and Fritz and two young sons had died in infancy or childhood, she dropped all pretence in letters home. Writing of "We English", she urged her mother to prevent the treasures of the Hamilton sale from leaving London for Berlin (which, however, many did) and warned of the dangers of allowing the Germans to occupy New Guinea or build the railway to Bagdad. Hardly reasonable, but certainly indiscreet, even by royal messenger or diplomatic bag.

Vicky's political intelligence was inferior to Victoria's because she had no opportunities to refine it on the realities of power. The Queen could make concessions to fellow-monarchs certain in the knowledge that before long she would have the opportunity to exact repayment in kind. *Vicky* had no good cards and only the future to play with: she was married to a liberal, loving, but essentially dutiful soldier and opposed at every turn by the most ruthless and brilliant statesman of the century. When the Emperor William I lived to the age of 92 and Frederick contracted a hideous and painful cancer in the neck, not even time was on her side; between his horrible old father and his even more unspeakable son, Kaiser Bill, poor Fritz reigned for ninety-nine days, and "History to the defeated/May say Alas but cannot help or pardon."

Michael Ratcliffe

Bomb-burst into the Pacific: How the Japanese surprised Pearl Harbor

At Dawn We Slept
The untold story of Pearl Harbor
By Gordon W. Prange

(Michael Joseph, £14.95)

It is not surprising that this remarkable volume was sold out on the first day of its publication in New York. Not merely because it is the characteristic Big American Book (81 chapters, 875 pages, 37 years of research) or because it deals with the Big American Subject — for to this country, Pearl Harbor is still an open wound in the American psyche. The reason must rather be a perception that in spite of the millions of words and the bitter controversies generated by a disaster on 7 December 1941, we have a new, judicious, indeed magisterial treatise on what which has perhaps only been equalled once, and in different terms — by Roberta Wohlstetter's classic *Pearl Harbor, Warning and Deception*, which appeared in 1962.

Professor Prange unfortunately died in 1980, and the 3500 pages of his uncompleted work have been trimmed into its present form by two of his former students. Its special quality

derives from his extraordinary grasp of the Japanese side of the story. For a number of years after the war he was Chief of the Historical Section in Japan, under General MacArthur, and was thus able to interview virtually every surviving Japanese officer who was concerned with the planning or the execution of the assault. Many of these contacts, particularly with some of the key personalities, ripened into confident friendships. The late Professor Prange's posthumous *Old Friends, New Enemies: The Royal Navy and the Imperial Japanese Navy*, which was published last year, was notable for its penetration of the Japanese mentality, but it is evident that during half a lifetime Professor Prange ranged more widely and probed more persistently.

It is particularly sad that Prange died in May 1980, for during the last 18 months a mass of contemporary documents has been declassified and lodged in the National Archives in Washington. But my own work, latterly, has involved an intensive study of the Japanese codes and ciphers, and the value of the intelligence derived from this source, and I believe it is fair to say that nothing in the thousands of papers recently

released substantially modifies the Professor's conclusions. One can criticize specific points — he is quite wrong, for example, in saying that in 1941 the Americans supplied us with no fewer than three replicas of the Japanese "Purple" enciphering machine — but the broad sweep of his argument is indisputable.

He shatters the proposition, still sustained by political prejudice, that what happened at Pearl Harbor was the result of a Rooseveltian "conspiracy". He demonstrates in minute detail how Admiral Yamamoto's plan for a surprise attack was never a crucial part of the great Japanese offensive scheme, but was only accepted by the Naval Staff in Tokyo reluctantly and at the last minute. With exemplary evidence he reveals that the Americans had long been aware of the theoretical possibility of a raid on Pearl but simply dismissed the notion as implausible.

Such a summary does no justice to the wealth of material — by way of documents and oral testimony — which buttresses Prange's assessment. In particular, it is impossible to describe briefly his account of the high

professionalism and consistent attention to detail with which the Japanese prepared their bomb-burst into the Pacific. In technique (torpedo-quality, night-fighting efficiency, pilot-experience) and in the amplitude of their strategic conceptions they were, for a few brief months, on a pinnacle. How infinitely creditable, that by the following summer, in the battle of Midway, Japan lost not only the core of its navy but also a war which, as Professor Prange makes clear, the hard men in Tokyo had intentionally launched.

That there was much miscalculation and myopia in Washington, however venial and grave misjudgment by the commanders at Pearl Harbor, Admiral Kimmel and General Short, has long been obvious to all but those blind by prejudice or self-justification. But with our own record over Singapore, who are we to question Prange's final conclusion: "The stain of error permeates the entire of American fabric of Pearl Harbor from the President down to the Fourteenth Naval District and the Hawaiian Department. There are no Pearl Harbor scapegoats."

Ronald Lewin

Losing one's innocence with Simone

Simone de Beauvoir
A Life of Freedom
By Carol Ascher

(Harvester Press, £9.95)

For a woman of my age and inclinations, approaching the Margaret Drabble middle ground of life, Simone de Beauvoir's name (like Edith Piaf, ironically enough) which conjures vistas of nostalgia, coffee bars with rubber plants; long Oxford conversations with friends dressed for existentialism in black polo-neck jerseys; intellectual musings on life and love and death. And when in the mid-sixties I went to join *The Guardian*, the chief reporter pressed into my hand a battered copy of *The Second Sex*, imagining that it might come in useful. Most accurate.

Because by this time, especially on *The Guardian*, where the Housewife Housewives were emerging in full force, de Beauvoirization was everywhere apparent. In the States it penetrated even farther. "Penetrated? Oh yes, touché. One finds that life is full of such complexities and pitfalls, the basic problem being that once one is de Beauvoirized one's innocence is lost and things are not the same again."

Ms Ascher, the American writer of this interesting, maddening new study of de Beauvoir, is a definite lost innocent: a one-time lecturer in Co-ordinated Women's Studies (can they really mean it?) at Sarah Lawrence College and the author of what is described as "a long novel" called *Respirations*. Few. She is clearly in the thick of it.

The de Beauvoir story is a strange and an impressive one. I have always thought it should be turned into an opera, if one ever found an intellectual enough librettist. Carol Ascher does a very conscientious job in tracing, through an analysis of the de Beauvoir memoirs, her extraordinary progress from a strictly Catholic girlhood to become the very symbol of emancipated women. Though possibly the signs were there already in her childhood: said her startled mother, "if you raise as much as a finger to Simone, she turns purple in the face."

Ms Ascher is eminently thoughtful in her commentary, often illuminating one that Simone and Jean-Paul Sartre, when they were young, at the Sorbonne and just after, spent a lot of time in cafes not just because they liked the free and easy café ambience but because the rooms they lodged in at the time were so damn perishing. She also faces bravely the absurd contradictions in de Beauvoir's life and writings, not least the way the champion of women's independence is so loath to be alone and so terrified by death.

Such fascinating subject-matter rises above most things. And just as well, for Ms Ascher does a very admirably thorough and in many ways quite sensitive, clearly exemplifies some of the worst effects of de Beauvoirization on literary endeavour. Much of the time its style is Women's Liberation turgid (a tendency de Beauvoir herself was immune to), by which I mean that special tone of earnest self-indulgence, emotional

heavy weather, so common among writers of the book-form, that the babies would have been a better bet. "Dear Simone de Beauvoir," writes the author in a (thankfully) undelivered letter to her subject which forms her rather bizarre central chapter: "I am in the midst of writing my book about your ideas, and I have been badly troubled by you — by my book on you — over the past weeks. Often in the morning as I go to my desk, I feel resentful, begrudging, sick of the lack of reciprocity between us... I want to work out my very difficult and confused feelings towards you."

Dear Carol Ascher. I think I must admit to a few complex feelings too.

Fiona MacCarthy

Eastern transports to the truth: Gurus, holy vibes, and quick rupees

The Shortest Journey
By Philippa Pullar

(Hamish Hamilton, £9.95)

Sensing that there must be more to a girl's life than drugs, drink and instant lovers (one the conductor of her last bus home to Putney), the author went three times to India to seek the truth from recommended holy men and, not altogether incidentally, to come back with a book. This is the book. From what follows here, it may not seem so funny, mind-churning and hugely readable, but I assure you:

The dedication says, "For Roy". Roy did the recommending, having had three years of the holy men, and returned a psychological mess, apt to be around naked in respectable hotels, shouting general insults: just the companion, Philippa naturally saw, for her travels. The relationship, like many, is left vague.



The journeys to India were perilous to ignore, but often failed to explore. The only people in *What We Talk About* who are truly at ease with language are the middle-class couples in the title story. But even they have failed marriages behind them, at least one of which gave way to a bloody aftermath.

In Mr Carver's hands, even the most mundane situation — a child's birthday or a drive in the country — can explode into grotesque violence. But it may not be the end of every one of these stories, considerably more or mercifully less has happened than seemed probable at the outset. What gives them such tension is the writer's ability to conceal his hand until the last sentence. Where his characters struggle unsuccessfully to find words, Carver's own mastery of language is absolute. But pause for a moment to admire the austere precision of his sentences, or the perfection of each story's form, and you run a grave risk of being poleaxed. My advice is to read this book as fast as you can, to reduce the impact of the anti-personal devices planted throughout it. Then start again, and find out why Frank Kermode has described its author as a full-grown master.

John D. MacDonald is an American master of a very different hue, and hue is not just, since his latest novel, like all its predecessors in the Travis McGee series, features the name of a colour in its title. McGee is a curious character. He calls himself a Salvage Investigator, but is really an amalgam of contradictory

happ Adoni who exuded from his fingertips the healing substance, Amrit... If that isn't the place where Swami Parvatikar, unless I mean Neelakantha Ithaji, departed from his body in a holy trance, leaving a shining blue light to mark the spot.

Intermittent shorter journeys were less exotic in destination. Neasden, where guru Dadaji, stopping off on a holy week tour, wasn't too interested in Philippa until he found she was writing a book, but then took to her, confiding the secret of what God smelt of Dartmoor, to sit at the feet of the visiting Swami, who advocated meditation through copulation, bought a yacht for conveniently transporting his disciples, but transported himself by white Jaguar.

He differed in this from the only true hooker, Her Holiness Mataji Nirmla Devi, who drove a white Mercedes, and, in Finchley, not only allowed Philippa to sit at, but to wash her feet, in a mandatory mixture of flour, honey, ghee, yoghurt and milk. But Roy was present, sulking rudely when told by Her Holiness to sleep, for salvation, with seven names and seven pills in the mouth. This may have impaired the quality of Philippa's received vibrations: whatever the cause, she too went off Mataji Nirmla Devi in the end, concluding that the shortest journey "of the title, was a voyage of discovery into herself. There was after all, says the book's closing sentence, "no need to go anywhere".

But vibrations she had received nevertheless, here and there. Mysterious surges of exaltation, floods of peace. By contrast, and often simultaneously, lots of laughs. Those, at least, the reader should be grateful to share: though this one remains in doubt whether there is holiness in those holy men, or just a sharp eye for the quick rupee.

Basil Boothroyd

listed for the final shoot-out. Like his hero, John D. MacDonald is an old pro. He may have done it all before, but that's no reason to blow the job. The narrative flows smoothly, the dialogue is crisp, and the action is handled with cool authority. Sadism is rampant throughout Buchi Emecheta's sixth novel, *Destination Biafra* (Alison & Busby, £7.95). But it is impossible to question (though harder still to hear) the brutality of her fictional account of the Nigerian Civil War, when the atrocities committed by both sides in that gruesome affair are no less well documented than the despicable posture adopted by the British Government of the day. It must be said that Miss Emecheta has not been well-served by her editor, and she has been positively sabotaged by whoever read the proofs of this book. But for all its deficiencies as literature, *Destination Biafra* ought to be compulsory reading in whatever august academy the young men and women of the Foreign and Commonwealth Office learn their arcane trade.

David Benedictus's novelization of the film based on Brian Clark's play *Whose Life Is It Anyway?* (Weidenfeld & Nicolson, £6.50) is another book of dubious literary value. But it may be enjoyed by readers who wish to be reminded of Tom Conti's remarkable stage performance as the sculptor whose paralysis after an accident leads him to fight the hospital authorities for the right to die.

John Nicholson

Mailer's friend wasted by time

In the Belly of the Beast
Letters from Prison
By Jack Henry Abbott

Introduction by Norman Mailer

(Hutchinson, £6.95)

Norman Mailer tells us that as letters began to flow in from his prisoner friend a few years ago, he would read them almost exclaiming, "Yes, he's right. My God, yes, it's true!" This reader occasionally found himself saying something similar; much more frequently there escaped a despairing groan. Abbott's non-notorious almost continuous imprisonment since the age of twelve, release to a chorus of literary praise and his current trial — has been held up by conservatives as a classic instance of the credulous naïveté of liberal intellectuals. But the letters should stand as a potent rebuke to them as well: decades of imprisonment are no better answer. Unless I have missed grave misapprehensions about the American prison system, it is not designed to turn out unworthy, bitter Marxists. This is the self-portrait revealed.



Jack Henry Abbott in chains, New Orleans, 1981

He has the gift of a telling phrase which captures his nightmare. He has been turned to steel by the smelter of endless time in confinement; it is not

criminal education — is the reason why men walk out of prison and commit further crimes.

The prose swoops between maturity forged by dreadful experience and the childish petulance of a man brought up in a system which has worked to destroy most moral choice. There is a detailed passage of instruction on why and how you should stab a man who has insulted you. Abbott's voracious reading has brought him to embrace revolutionary violence, Cuba, and Russia. The saddest words in the book appear in the chapter heading "Foreign Affairs". Solzhenitsyn's *First Circle* revealed to him "how lenient the Soviet Union was with its prisoners."

The system which imprisoned Abbott and men like him leaves them with little but their rage. He makes one uncannily perceptive and prophetic remark about the pride and exhilaration which convicts feel when chained hand and foot: "The world has focussed on us for a moment. We are capable of threatening the world in some way, no matter how small a way." He could have been talking about pictures of himself which appeared in the paper this week as he went to court accused of murdering a waiter who died after a fight in Manhattan only weeks after Abbott's release from jail.

George Brock

Murdoch dourly anatomized

Iris Murdoch: Work for the Spirit
By Elizabeth Dipple

(Methuen, £12.50)

Some say she is a witch, this quiet lady working quietly in Oxford, quietly writing novels; quite a few. Iris Murdoch lights fuses under our added, idle wits, detonating perceptions from end to end of her present score of stories.

It is a gift to Lit. Crit. of course. A Murdoch novel is what happens when muddled, maddening, human behaviour — yours and mine — meets a formidable (sometimes maddening) technique. She uses profound laws of causality; an enormous range of learned allusions; devastating accuracy in the detail of human character. From *Under the Net* in 1954 to *Nuns and*

Soldiers in 1980 they are strange eventful histories; binary codes of formlessness versus form, would-be-saint versus would-be-artist; integrity, lies, the perils of the spiritual life in mythological frames. And such dreams as stuff is made of, called love.

"General" readers — *The Nice and the Good* — need not submit to trial by ordeal. We can add discomfort to delight and vice versa, by marking the mighty precepts which govern her merciless, mesmerizing tales. But the books stand up and bark anyway. Professor Dipple, seeking to show "the depth of Murdoch's massive achievement", allows as much; though she seems a little too mesmerized; not least by her own book on Miss Murdoch's works in their moral and religious context.

This American study is fervent in pursuit of the

Snark. No "significance" goes unsung, no reference unremarked, in nearly 350 pages and a Name Index weighted with thimbles and care, conscientious in "forwarding Murdoch's cause among her readers". Come! But with forks and with hope you may find a Boojum. The analysis displays high moral fibre and authoritative leadership skills: a loyal, well-trained guide dog. Partially-sighted participants in our human comedy will continue to blunder along with Iris Murdoch leading shyly from behind. By God and Timeus, children, keep thinking while the rigour of your disbelief. Eros, or Jesus, or somebody wants you for a sunbeam; and Professors of English, or maddened reviewers, or Gobble-uns! I'll give you if you don't watch out.

Gay Firth

Fiction

What We Talk About When We Talk About Love
By Raymond Carver

(Collins, £6.50)

A hazardous place. Raymond Carver's warty characters and readers alike. Most of the 17 stories in this collection are set in lower middle-class America in the 1970s. Unemployment is constantly threatened, often experienced, though it never seems to leave the characters short of the price of a bottle of Scotch. But drink doesn't help. It just weakens resistance, sometimes fatally, to what Carver sees as the greatest threat to our survival — inarticulacy.

The typical Carver story opens with a couple at war. One partner has had enough of the other's drunkenness, shiftness or infidelity, and wants out. But the words will not come, or if they do, they are misunderstood. So the only way to express pain and anger is to pick up the nearest bottle or heavy object. It is a world in which reaching agreement to separate is a triumph of diplomacy. But the break can never be clean, because it has not been satisfactorily explained. Readers of these pages will know that words can be weapons. For Raymond Carver's characters they are more like undetonated shells

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MR REAGAN'S FIRST YEAR

The whole of the free world has an interest in there being an effective President of the United States. Yet so many hopes are vested in the office that it has become almost impossible for it to be filled satisfactorily. Not since 1972 has a president been elected to a second term, and Mr Nixon does not offer the most fortunate of examples. Not since Eisenhower has a president served two terms. Already there are signs that the process of intense exposure that consumed Mr Ford and Mr Carter may be beginning to have its effect on Mr Reagan. At the end of his first year there is no shortage of critical voices.

The record is certainly mixed, but it is much better than many of the critics would allow. Mr Reagan's greatest strength is that he has shown himself to be an accomplished politician in office, as well as in campaigning for office. This is the quality without which no man can be a successful president. It has been displayed to greatest effect in Mr Reagan's handling of Congress, at which he has been more adept than any president since the first two years of Lyndon Johnson.

This quality is linked to his capacity to communicate with the public at large. His performance at press conferences, which are so important in the United States, has been uneven; yet he has managed to convey the impression of an agreeable man, relaxed in the exercise of power, capable of explaining his policy with clarity and even eloquence, and also on occasion of decisive action. That was demonstrated most effectively in his rout of the air traffic controllers and in his espousal of the zero option proposal for the intermediate-range nuclear missile negotiations.

This record disproves the caricature of an irrational extremist that was presented to the outside world and indeed often to the American public itself, before his election. Nor is his Administration run by a bunch of cowboys, as might be supposed from some critical comments. It is not as orderly as seems appropriate to those

accustomed to European forms of parliamentary government, but it is more orderly than Mr Carter's team.

Why then the criticisms? One reason is that many people had a preconception of what a Reagan presidency would be like and have attached particular importance to all those items of evidence that have appeared to justify their fears. But that is not a sufficient explanation. There have been important failures in both the foreign and domestic fields.

In foreign policy there has been a weakness in organisation that can be attributed in large measure to the difficulties that Mr Haig has had with his colleagues. Mr Reagan is not a president who wishes to immerse himself in foreign policy, but he is not willing simply to hand over control in this field to somebody else. This requires that the administration should contain a principal architect and coordinator of foreign policy, who commands the close confidence of the President, but who also has a sensitive awareness of the limits of his authority.

Mr Haig was chosen for this role, but he possesses neither of those qualifications. He has also clashed frequently with his colleagues, most notably Mr Richard Allen, while he was still the National Security Adviser, but not only with Mr Allen. Now that Mr Allen has been replaced by Mr William Clark this part of the administration may function more smoothly. But there can be no doubt that these difficulties have made more protracted the adjustment of international realities necessary for a government that took office with too simple a view of the world.

The struggle with the Soviet Union is the most important aspect of international affairs for the United States. If it gets that part of its policy wrong, the whole free world stands to suffer. But it is misguided to see every issue in terms of that struggle. If the United States sees every situation in the light of international Communism it is more likely to create conditions that will

enable international Communism to extend its influence.

This excessive simplicity has certainly hampered United States policy in the Middle East and Latin America. The reputation for excessive simplicity has damaged the relationship with western Europe. But it would be wrong to put all the blame for the difficulties of the alliance on to the Americans. An unhealthy mood has developed in western Europe that is too dismissive of American concerns, especially when these should properly be the concerns of the alliance as a whole, and takes America too much for granted. The improvement of relationships within the alliance should be seen not as a challenge according to which Mr Reagan alone will be judged, but as an equal obligation on both sides of the Atlantic.

The strength of any American administration in foreign policy, however, depends substantially upon the success of its domestic policies. This is where Mr Reagan is likely to experience his most critical challenge. It may be too facile to blame him for the fact that the American economy is in severe recession. But its return to health will be impeded so long as the President continues to pursue a collection of incompatible policies.

It is impossible to reduce the budget deficit, cut personal taxation and increase defence expenditure, while preserving social security payments and refusing to raise taxation in other areas. The most telling criticism of Mr Reagan is that like so many other presidents before him, and so many heads of government in other countries, he wants the best of all worlds. The critical challenge for his second year is whether he takes the inevitably unpleasant decisions required to reconcile his policies with each other, and whether he can then exercise his considerable political gifts to make those decisions acceptable to the American people. It will be a formidable task, which illustrates the difficulty of that great office now that a comfortable rate of economic growth is not automatic. But there is hope that he can do it.

THE RULES OF MONOPOLY

The Monopolies Commission is most commonly thought of as a body intended to stop the wealthy and strong gobbling up the small and weak when there is no benefit to public or consumer. Would that were still the case. It is not. Over the past five or six years, and most surprisingly under a government formally committed to letting the market take its course, the scope and nature of the Monopolies Commission inquiries have been widened to include reviews of the efficiency of the nationalized industries, opinions on the personalities of management and regional policy, and deciding whether a merger would be a good thing *per se*, not simply whether it would create an unwelcome market dominance. In a succession of recent reports, most notably on the Lornho acquisition of *The Observer* (allowed), the Lornho take-over of the House of Fraser (disallowed), the projected take-overs of the Royal Bank of Scotland (refused) and the European Ferries take-over of Sealink (refused) and Berisford's bid for British Sugar (allowed), the commission has been inconsistent not just in its judgments but in its approach.

This is not entirely the commission's fault. The successive acts defining its role have been drawn deliberately widely to leave much discretion to the Secretary of State for Trade in making a reference and to the commission in deciding how to

define the public interest in any case. How the immediate interests of a company in danger of closure can be set against the dangers that its take-over implies for competition in the marketplace must always be a subjective judgment made by case. The commission does and should respond to public mood. In so far as one can discern any trend in its recent decisions it is towards a more questioning approach to the value of merger, which broadly accords with present fashion.

Yet the startling inconsistency of the commission's recent reports betrays problems deeper than fashion or human fallibility. The fact that different reports can find a merger good enough to own a national newspaper but not good enough to own a draper's store, and that they can say within months that one bid (Berisford for British Sugar) would bring no benefit but should be allowed and that another (Hiram Walker for Highland Distillers) should be refused because it brought no benefit suggests that a widening discretion is becoming a cause for confusion rather than improvement.

Part of the problem lies in what the commission is being asked to do. Increasingly Ministers are using it, as in the case of the Royal Bank of Scotland, to cope with awkward political issues rather than examine real questions of competition. The commission itself responds by

coming to conclusions which are essentially political. And this in turn highlights the limits of competence of the members of the commission itself and those it co-opt. There are on the whole good establishment figures from the Civil Service, the legal profession, the academic world and industry, able to investigate the rationale of mergers but ill-equipped to decide broader questions such as the Bank of England's role in monetary control or the weight of multiples in gaining discounts for retailers.

The terms of reference under which the commission examines individual cases need to be better drawn. Even without a formal change in the 1972 Fair Trading Act — the source of much of the confusion — the Trade Secretary should be more precise in setting the ground rules for an inquiry. He might well suggest, as an innovation, the areas on which he would expect a firm recommendation by the commission, essentially the questions of competition, and other areas where he might ask the commission to consider and advise, but reserve to Cabinet the duty of final decision. That would put the responsibility for political judgments where it ought to lie. Judgment even in the area of competition must always remain a broad and subjective act. But it is time that the Monopolies Commission was reined back to concentrate the better on the areas of its greatest competence.

Alliance prospects

From Mr John Pick
Sir, Dick Taverne writes (January 12) of the Liberals and the SDP: "the two can prosper only if they become one party or remain permanently allied by such close ties that they are one party in all but name." He sees the Alliance as forming what he calls "the radical centre" — a phrase so meaningless that it must surely indicate some confusion of thought — and imagines that there are no ideological differences between liberals and social democrats.

Perhaps the statement of a few principles will make it plain that he is mistaken. A Liberal solution to a given problem is one which increases the freedom and responsibility of individuals. This applies everywhere and at all times. A liberal society would be one in which people cooperate in complete freedom, with full

responsibility accepted and shared. If we cannot attain that, we must, as Liberals, get as near to it as life will allow. The appeal of "community politics" to us is not merely that it may succeed in righting local wrongs, but that it encourages individuals and communities to take responsibility and to insist on decisions for themselves how their lives shall be run. The detailed policies necessary if we are to move in the preferred direction have been formulated and are embodied in the full Liberal programme — a programme of which social democrats seem entirely ignorant.

Does this sound like an account of social democracy acceptable to the state-oriented Labour refugees who formed the SDP? Those of us who joined the Liberal Party during Jo Grimond's leadership are committed to the establishment of the libertarian radical movement

which British politics so desperately needs. If, indeed, it is the aim of Dick Taverne, David Steel and others who think like him to make one party out of the present Alliance, then it will be necessary to form a new Liberal Party. I hope they will, with due reflection, put this in their pipes and smoke it.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN PICK,
Hollins,
Balmacellan,
Castle Douglas,
Kirkcudbrightshire,
January 13.

Proper names

From Professor Edward Garden
Sir, I recently received a letter addressed to "Mr E. G. Prof". Yours faithfully,
EDWARD GARDEN,
Department of Music,
University of Sheffield,
January 12.

Educative task for CND

From Mr Edward Leigh
Sir, In his response (December 24) to my report on civil defence deficiencies, the Vice-President of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament, Lord Jenkins, professes willingness to spend "billions" of pounds on providing fall-out shelters for the British people. Yet he recommends this only if we cease to "insist on having Soviet weapons targeted on us by targeting ours on the USSR." It is his opinion that civil defence is useless except for neutral countries (which may only have to cope with the incidental side-effects of direct nuclear attacks upon their neighbours).

If that is true, may I suggest to the CND that it has a major educative task to perform in the Soviet Union? The Russians take civil defence very seriously indeed, regardless of the fact that their own nuclear weapons are targeted on their centres of population.

Thus, on December 1, Colonel Fedir Shevchenko in charge of the city's Civil Defence preparations, located on Lvov radio that in 1982 the emphasis would be on "the practical training of the population in ways to protect themselves against weapons of mass destruction.... There should not be a single installation in Lvov without a civil defence training point."

Of course it would be an unspeakable catastrophe to undergo the effects of a nuclear war, whatever the state of our home defences; but, if they are honest, the advocates of deterrence and unilateral disarmament alike have to admit that neither of their policies would rule out all prospect of this occurring. Nor is it even certain that a nuclear war, if it came, would take the form of an all-out strategic attack, as Lord Jenkins seems to take for granted.

The Russians, at least, have recognised that, however terrible the likely losses, large numbers of people would survive and require succour and support. Civil defence measures would have a vital humanitarian task to perform. If the CND was as interested in protecting our people as it is in dismantling our defences its spokesmen would have no difficulty in recognising this.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD LEIGH,
Chairman, National Council for Civil Defence,
Cayzer House,
2 St Mary Axe, EC3,
January 12.

Blood and Grail

From Mr Geoffrey Grigson
Sir, It doesn't matter of course if writers write silly books for silly readers. It cannot be helped, anyhow. But it is dismaying when a publisher who has been servant to so many great writers descends to publishing such an extra-silly book as *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, and it is dismaying that *The Times* feels it must play ball with such nonsense in a column and a half next to its leading articles (January 18).

You don't really need to go to bishops for assurance that such rubbish is rubbish, and I can't suppose that the move from Old to New Printing House Square left you short of rubbish bins. So far so bad. But how ought we to describe the basic share of the BBC in promoting, in several programmes, an affront to reason as silly, if luckily not as dangerous, as the *Protocols of the Elders of Zion*? I know that the grand cultural aspirations carved in Latin in the foyer of Broadcasting House are contradicted over and over again by programme-makers, but to screen such silliness before millions of viewers is, whether cynical or not, disgusting.

Yours etc,
GEOFFREY GRIGSON,
Broad Town Farmhouse,
Broad Town, Swindon,
Wiltshire.

From Mr Malcolm Muggeridge
Sir, Having been asked to consider participating in a television programme on the book *The Holy Blood and the Holy Grail*, referred to in your issue of January 18, I had occasion to take a desultory look at it. The impression formed was that, after much ardent endeavour by Christian leftists to present the founder of the Christian religion as the Honourable Member for Galilee South, here was a move to get him into Debrett.

Yours sincerely,
MALCOLM MUGGERIDGE,
Park Cottage,
Rottersbridge,
Sussex,
January 18.

Capital error

From Mr S. R. Gould
Sir, After Mr J. R. Waters's letter (January 11) it is only fair to remind readers of the tragic event which followed the capital's renaming, namely the so-called *Gesundheit* purge. Older readers will recall that when the party secretary announced the name-change to *Przysycszow*, two senior party theoreticians, policy and promptly replied "Gundheit", and they, together with their families, were immediately incarcerated and were never heard from again.

The Yalta Agreement in retrospect

From Mr Maurice Petherick and Sir Victor Raikes
Sir, As the mover and "winder-up" respectively of the motion, taken as one of "no confidence", in the House of Commons on February 28, 1945 challenging Mr Churchill's Government on the Yalta Agreement, perhaps you will allow us to reply to the confused letter of Professor S. E. Ambrose in your paper of January 15.

The victims of four partitions and countless vicissitudes, the ancient and formerly independent Poland was restored after the 1914-18 war. Its postwar frontiers were acknowledged by the rest of the world and guaranteed four times by the Russians. Britain and the Commonwealth and France entered the war in 1939 in Poland's defence.

At Yalta President Roosevelt and Mr Churchill agreed to terms under which Poland was to lose to Russia nearly half its territory, a third of its population and the ancient "Lion City" of Lvov. Also torn away from Poland were huge resources of timber and coal, half its grain, flax and hemp, 40 per cent of its water supply, 85 per cent of its oil and natural gas and a great part of its chemical industry, potassium mines and phosphates.

This shameful surrender to Stalin is ignored by Mr Ambrose. He appears only to claim that the office of the Russians was to fail to honour the agreement to install as the new government of Poland the "Lublin Committee", pledged to "free and unfettered elections", and that all that Solidarity is now demanding is protection under that part of the Yalta Agreement. As we emphasised in the debate, the whole notion of Government by the Lublin Committee, imposed upon Poland from outside largely on Russian terms, was a travesty of the freedom as an independent nation to choose its own Government, a freedom which ought to have held good to this day.

Those of us who opposed the Yalta Agreement saw their worst fears realised in a matter of months. When meeting, as we did

for several weeks before putting down our motion, being reluctant to challenge our Government in wartime, we tried to find some overwhelming reason, unknown to us, which could justify so dire a breach of faith affecting not only Poland, but all the nations of central Europe and indeed the whole world. And every time we came to the conclusion that the Allied leaders believed that, unless they gave Stalin what he wanted, Russia would make a separate peace.

To this we replied, to ourselves, that although this might have been possible at the time of Stalingrad, when the Russians were nearly down and out, it was inconceivable that they would be so foolish as to do so when their great enemy, Hitlerite Germany, was on the point of collapse, thus giving it a chance of recovery.

So we believed then, and it has become clearer day by day since, that Yalta was not only a grievous betrayal but one of the most fatal errors of judgment in all history.

We are, Sir, your obedient servants,
MAURICE PETHERICK,
VICTOR RAIKES,
Porthope House,
St Austell,
Cornwall,
January 18.

From Mrs Wanda Jordan
Sir, In connection with the article "Moscow and Poland: don't let Yalta cloud the issue" by David Watt (January 15), may I recall another conference at Teheran in November, 1943, at which half of the Polish territory was handed over to the Soviet Union without the knowledge and approval of the Polish Government. At that time the military strength of the Western powers was at its highest and there were no Russian Troops on the Polish soil yet.

Alas, the skeleton in the cupboard is still there.

Yours faithfully,
W. JORDAN,
Garden Flat,
4 Hamilton Road, W5,
January 16.

Amazingly, the National Coal Board and then other public corporations were patterned on the same model: limited ministerial power, almost unsackable chairmen and protection from detailed parliamentary scrutiny; and remuneration of directors so low that it can be expected to attract a people of sufficient weight only if they are nearing retirement. Consumer councils and select committees may do a little, but they cannot fill the gap.

Nor, with respect, can competition. Not so long ago an American businessman needed three teleprinters in his office to reach the subscribers of competing telex companies. It was the Federal Communications Commission, not the competitors, which put a stop to that.

Yours faithfully,
TOM U. MEYER,
Meadow Bank,
Leaghy,
Lostwithiel,
Cornwall,
January 18.

From Mr A. M. Findlay
Sir, Under the heading "Public inefficiency" (January 15) I looked forward to reading a homely upon my bumbling ineptitude, and that of my fellow subjects, on one of any number of important subjects. You have a rich field in which to work.

Imagine, therefore, my disgust at reading your castigation of British Telecom, which provides me with a clear and simple method of talking to anyone I wish to talk to anywhere in the world, and whose account I pay without question, relying upon its well-proved efficiency.

Yours faithfully,
A. MCCARTIE FINDLAY,
34 Woodland Way,
Woodford Wells,
Essex,
January 15.

From Mr A. P. Judd
Sir, Having read the full-page advertisement in today's paper (January 18), that for a bargain price of £3 (+ VAT) they will deliver a 50-word Telemessage the following working day, so long as the message is received by them prior to 8 pm on the previous day, it occurred to me that this service used to be offered by the GPO, without word limitation, under their first-class postage service, at a fraction of the Telemessage cost.

Yours sincerely,
A. P. JUDD,
66 Millbrook Court,
Kewick Road, SW15,
January 18.

The old and cold at risk

From Dr J. J. Fidler and Dr J. S. Greener
Sir, The comments by the Norwich District Coroner (report, January 14) on the four cases of elderly people dying at home in the cold weather illustrate the pressures on doctors and local authorities to remove elderly people from their homes against their will when they are considered to be "at risk" or live in squalid conditions.

If the persons concerned are demented or confused and unable to look after their own interests there is usually no problem in obtaining a compulsory admission order under the Mental Health Act, but if they are of sound mind and state, as did one of the women who died, "I am not worried about dying; I would rather die in my own bed", there is a serious ethical dilemma involved in attempting to remove them to hospital.

It is a common experience that old people who are so removed against their will frequently die in hospital soon after admission in considerable emotional distress, albeit in better physical circumstances.

We feel it is better to strike a balance between the desire for a "tidy" solution favoured by relatives, neighbours and the relevant agencies and the risk of robbing the old person of the last vestiges of pride and independence which may be more important to them than their physical wellbeing or continued survival.

Yours faithfully,
J. J. FIDLER,
J. S. GREENER,
Consultant Physicians in Geriatric Medicine,
The West Suffolk Hospital,
Hardwick Lane,
Bury St Edmunds,
Suffolk,
January 14.

Accents uncertain

From Mrs A. Thomas
Sir, The Greek Minister of Education "confidently" estimates that using one accent rather than three in writing Greek "will save the average Greek schoolchild 6000 hours of his life" (January 16, 1982).

If we assume 5 hours of work per day in school (generous?), this would add up to a good 6 years of full-time schooling being devoted exclusively to learning accents. Does this imply that the Minister of Education himself had to spend so much time on learning his accents that he did not have enough time for his sums?

Yours faithfully,
ANNE THOMAS,
3 Carr Bank Close,
Sheffield,
January 16.

Living together

From Mr Ewen E. S. Montagu
Sir, I fear that Mr A. D. Hewlett (January 16) is embarking on a hopeless campaign. For some 20 of my years on the Bench I struggled against the use of the word "cohabitee" (from *cohabit*, prison, etc.).

This misuse was started by probation officers and quickly spread to the police, prison governors and the Home Office itself — and then beyond into the media. I even (dare I say it?) issued an order to your local newspapers to stop using the word, now seldom reads or hears of an "escaper".

I am, Sir, etc.,
E. S. MONTAGU,
24, Montrose Court,
Exhibition Road, SW7,
January 16.

Cold reception

From Mrs M. Hannah
Sir, Would your correspondent, Tim Jones (*The Times*, January 16) who writes of the village of Llanwrith, Major that "Mothers deserved the most sympathy, for the schools which should have reopened after the Christmas holidays, were closed, and they had to cope with endless streams of children from half-completed snowmen", spare a thought for those schools which, despite the snow, did re-open this week? The classroom in which another colleague and I teach is occupied by 62 small children, all of whom came in from outside dripping wet from having thrown the snow, rolled in the snow and built 62 snowmen between them.

Incidentally, can any reader suggest a fast and simple method of sorting 124 small wet Wellington boots into 62 correctly matching pairs?

Yours sincerely,
MARY HANNAH,
The Vicarage,
Deddington, Oxford.

Out of date

From Dr G. D. S. Henderson
Sir, English bishops at the council of Arles? *Non Angli sed Britanni* might be the least of our apostle Pope St Gregory's strictures on the tendentious claims of the Church of England as stated in the Bishop of Norwich's letter in Saturday's issue (January 16).

The back page you equally dated probability with your fourteenth-century dating of that king and knight. Is this the start of a weekend "Spot the howlers" competition for *Times* readers?

Yours faithfully,
G. D. S. HENDERSON,
University of Cambridge,
Department of History of Art,
1 Scone Terrace,
Cambridge.

THE ARTS

John Heilpern reports from New York on 'Brideshead Revisited'

English nostalgia conquers America

Britain's cultural colonization of America continues apace. The first showing of *Brideshead Revisited* on United States television this week was promoted "with the remorseless stealth of a hunting cannibal" as Mr. Waugh wrote in *The Loved One* about the promotion of an exotic perfume called *Jungle Venom*.

Exhorted to enter "the very upstairs world of *Brideshead Revisited*", Americans possessing a Jamesian Anglophilia have certainly done so. The two-hour premiere of the series has been a resounding success, thereby confirming that only Americans can be as nostalgic about England's past as the English.

Brideshead now joins such popular television exports to America as *The Forsyte Saga*, *Upstairs, Downstairs*, *The Duchess of Duke Street* and *Edward & Mrs. Simpson*. Americans should be forgiven for having an image of Britain, produced by Britain, as a country that somehow began in Edwardian times and stopped at Oxbridge circa the 1920s.

The success in the United States of *Monty Python* and *Fawlty Towers* updates the image a little, though only to the extent that we are also seen in America as a nation of lunatics.



From the promotion brochure for the debut of *Brideshead Revisited*

Brideshead Revisited ("made possible by a grant from Exxon") is being shown on the Public Broadcasting Service, a version of BBC American-style that is supported by the big oil companies, by begged-for public subscriptions and Federal subsidy (soon to be severely cut back). Its blessing is that it has none of the commercial network's massive advertising that hits the dazed viewer as fast as blizzards in winter.

Brideshead Revisited, and other prestige British exports such as *David Attenborough's Life on Earth*, are instrumental in Public Television's battle to survive in America, after its own fashion.

As is the custom, *Brideshead* was packaged and hosted with due cultural solemnity. *Upstairs, Downstairs*, first packaged as Masterpiece Theatre in the US, was hosted by Alistair

Cooke who delivered American TV's equivalent to the vicar's sermon: first he told viewers what they were about to see and, when all was done, he told them what they had seen.

To the mystery of all, *Rumpole of the Bailey* was released on Public TV in a series entitled *Mystery*, and was therefore hosted by Vincent Price sitting in what looked like Dracula's library. *Brideshead Revisited*, packaged as Great Performances, was hosted by William F. Buckley Jr., the political columnist, perhaps the grounds that, as Mr Buckley

is both a Conservative and a Catholic, he was the ideal man for the job. He is also an Anglophile.

The American press greeted *Brideshead* as ecstatically as the British, though with an occasional self-lacerating edge. "The best series ever seen on American television and it is, needless to say, not American," wrote the *Washington Post*. "A magnificent achievement" — the *Los Angeles Times*.

"One of the most extraordinarily beautiful mini-series you will ever see. Homosexuality was endemic, some

might say epidemic, at Oxford in the 1920s, and the frank presentation of this atmosphere in *Brideshead Revisited* may repel some viewers. Other than that..." — the *Philadelphia Inquirer*.

And more: "A must-see. Compelling. Even better than curling up with a good book," wrote *New York's Daily News*. "Truly special. Outstanding. Incredible. Lavish. The casting is unfailingly inspired, from the major roles to the innumerable passing cameos that the British seem to toss off with enviable ease" wrote *The New York Times*. Though the

NY Times review also noted that "This 13-hour production begins to sag quite noticeably about halfway through," it added "for the time being, anyone interested in Waugh or in splendid television should not miss the first several hours of this extraordinary presentation."

The normal ratings for Public TV were doubled and in some areas tripled for the premiere of *Brideshead*.

On the night of the premiere, producer Derek Granger of Granada Television, the mastermind behind the production, spent a quiet evening in Manhattan watching *Brideshead* with English friends. Charles Sturridge, its young director, was whooping it up at a *Brideshead* party in Hollywood, although the ghost of Evelyn Waugh would have disapproved. In contrast, our Ambassador to America remained safely in the Washington Embassy, and both Sir Nicholas Henderson and Lady Henderson were glued most happily to the box.

What does Sir Nicholas react to *Brideshead*? "Americans love it, of course," he tells me. They may find it a side of us that will possibly irritate them a little while it certainly intrigues them. A kind of English snobbery and grandeur, the sybaritic qualities. We have a knack of turning such things into an art form. The success of *Brideshead* probably confirms America's fond view of British eccentricity. On the other hand, it's like people being fascinated by the devil

What Evelyn Waugh would have thought is not, however, a matter of conjecture. When the wife of an American theatre producer told him that *Brideshead Revisited* was one of the best books she had ever read, he replied: "I thought it was good myself, but now that I know that a vulgar, common American woman like yourself admires it, I am not so sure." Absolutely disgraceful, of course. But Mr Waugh, as is well known, did not take kindly either to Americans or to America — or indeed to the invention of television.

Paperbacks

Adventures of Flora, an early feminist



Flora Tristan

The London Journal of Flora Tristan Translated, annotated and introduced by Jean Hawkes (Virago, £3.95)

Philanthropic women of today have few good causes on which to expend their energy. Public outrage generally stems from situations highlighted by the media rather than from active research by an individual. In the nineteenth century people just went off to explore and observe life in all parts of the world. London, basking in the glory of being the world's largest city and capital of the most advanced industrial nation, came under the critical eye of a formidable Frenchwoman, Flora Tristan.

One of the earliest socialists and feminists and possibly remembered as Gauguin's grandmother — Flora Tristan was an extraordinary woman. She made four visits to London between 1826 and 1839 and recorded her observations in a journal. Nothing escaped her attention; she scoured all areas of the city looking for — and finding in abundance — evidence of poverty and deprivation. This first translation into English by Jean Hawkes of Flora Tristan's journal gives a first-hand account of the English as seen by a Frenchwoman in the 1830s.

It is ironic that, at the exact time that Flora was recoiling in horror from the grisly torture instruments displayed in Newgate Prison, her English counterpart Elizabeth Fry was having much the same experience in France. Flora boldly marched into gin palaces, brothels, mental asylums and factories to inspect and question everything that went on. She even managed to gain entry into the House of Parliament by dressing as a Turk. This book would hardly be popular with the ardent patriot, unless he happened to be barefoot and starving, for Flora finds little to commend in the English people. From her observations in London, she concluded that "the sober English gentleman is chaste to the point of prudery", and she bitterly condemned the hypocrisy and self-satisfaction of the aristocracy. Her genuine horror on finding so much suffering and disease in London behind the façade of prosperity and content shows through strongly in her acutely descriptive and compassionate narrative.

Cassandra at the Wedding, by Dorothy Baker (Virago, £2.95)

It isn't easy to write well about identical twins: their interwoven lives and matching thoughts have become too useful a plot for familiar subjects of scientific inquiry. But Dorothy Baker is a writer of considerable dramatic skill and *Cassandra at the Wedding*, her fourth and last novel, about the struggle two girls go through to separate, is far from obvious or banal.

Cassandra, a would-be writer and largely lesbian in her relationships, and Judith, a pianist, come together after a separation of nine months on the eve of Judith's marriage to a doctor. The more unstable but the more interesting of the two, Cassandra is also the one most wedded to her twin. Judith's marriage is unthinkably Stendhalian. She does her best, explaining with patient logic how any ultimate split between them is madness, and when she fails to prevent the marriage, she takes an overdose. Revived by the doctor-husband, nurtured by the psychiatrist, there is "such a thing as a whole life...work mostly, Work, and interest, and love", and that she will give it a go.

It all sounds too neat. Any glimmer of redemption by Dorothy Baker's humour and by the way she handles intensity within a framework of minor details and secondary characters.

Caroline Moorehead

Maria Callas, by Arianna Stassinopoulos (Hamlyn, £1.75)

Greek tragedy is part of our cultural heritage, evoking feelings of pity and terror. Maria Callas's life developed from humble beginnings, into a high tragedy, with overtones of melodrama.

Born in New York, a huge, unwanted baby, the girl Maria grew into a fat, ungainly young woman, with a remarkable singing voice. Her early struggles to become an opera singer, her revealing she was to take her revenge in later years for all the slights offered then. Married to a much older man who organized her career, she shed pounds to become the beautiful, accomplished star, not only of the opera, but of the gossip columns and the society of the ultra rich.

Flora Casement

The author, perhaps wisely, does not attempt to

analyse in detail the musical side of Maria Callas's career. She was a powerful dramatic actress, and brought new intensity to roles unsung for many years, and the voice has an individuality quite thrilling. Her personal life was a pitiful mess: the eight years she spent with Aristotle Onassis meant that she virtually abandoned her career during what might have been fruitful and important years. She never recovered from his brutal rejection and his subsequent marriage to Mrs Jacqueline Kennedy. The farewell tours were excruciatingly painful to those who had heard in her prime, and she seemed to lose interest in life itself, dying suddenly at 54.

Arianna Stassinopoulos has produced a sympathetic portrait, and has had the assistance of many of Callas's friends and close associates. If, by her temperamental displays, her scenes with colleagues, and her steely perfectionism she committed the sin of hubris, the Furies pursued her (and Aristotle Onassis) to the end.

Philippa Toomey

The Heights of Rimbey, by Duff Hart-Davis (Putnam, £1.60)

Hart-Davis's *The Heights of Rimbey* takes us from the plucky hours of English strolling to the perils of the Himalayas. Bill Stirling, a young ex-SAS officer (voluntarily retired from having shot a baby in a plastic bag in mistake for a bomb in Belfast) is drafted back to rescue from a Tibetan monastic agent with a broken back and essential Chinese information. Stirling's task seems difficult but uncomplicated until his wife unwittingly tips off the KGB and his agent in Tibet, the Dalai Lama's representative, suddenly expects him to retrieve the Emerald Goddess of Chado, a life-size jewelled statue which has become symbolically essential to the idea of Tibetan freedom. Assassination attempts, terrifying mountain conditions, a ludicrous Australian quasi-spy and a crucial time factor, as a Sino-Soviet war is being hatched, all tighten the tension in this fast and exciting thriller.

A subsidiary plot develops when an air taxi pilot, festering in Eastern corruption and bribery is set on, capturing the Emerald Goddess, and the intertwining of the two plots is cleverly and amusingly engineered. But the outstanding merit of the novel apart from its having rattled a gripping tale is its sense of atmosphere and place where the power of the Himalayas in size, climate and beauty is drawn with a knowing and delightful hand.

Mission Y to the Monastery of Rimbey is an escape for Stirling, from a frigid, sterile home existence into a world of Nepalese warmth and mountain cold; of guns, spies and excitement; a world you are highly recommended to enter.

Geordie Greig

Philip Howard

Last night's television

The discoveries too good to be true

Poor Schliemann. Not only did he take the discovery of Priam's treasure during a convenient lunch hour in his excavation of Troy, but he never wrote his thesis in Classical Greek at Rostock. He never met the President in Washington and he missed seeing the San Francisco fire of 1851 by a month although he claimed to have done all these things in his life. That he did do was buy gold dust in Sacramento, short-change the bankers on the coast, and cover the tracks of his entire life so elaborately that it has taken one hundred years even to begin sussing him out.

All this, a jolly shrink explained

in Roy Davies's film for Chronicle (BBC 2) was because his father was a bullying German pastor and inside the famous archaeologist was a little boy trying to get out and hit back by telling enormous fibs. Ladies and gentlemen on Swan Hellenic Tours said he was a great man if a bit crazy — well, you had to dig deep in 1873 to find anything at all — and among other ideas floated by Scots and American classicists in the course of a riveting programme were that Schliemann had assembled the treasure, from various sources and sites, in Athens itself, and that the theatricality of his methods as a pioneer of publicity

and the personal hype were precisely what the age and time required. Priam's treasure was too good to be true, but nobody wanted to know.

Jonathan Powell's production of *The Bell* (BBC 2) continues to resound with immanence and wit. The texture seems less Gothic and more straightforward than the novel there is, after all, a real house, an actual bridge, well, gateway and tower in the trees, but such is the strength, simplicity and effectiveness of these metaphors that Iris Murdoch's moral comedy of self-knowledge and salvation touches

reality and moves beyond it even as they materialize before us. Acting and direction hold the spell: a cast without weakness — above all, the bracingly vulgar Dora (Tessa Peas-Jones), abrasive Nick (Kenneth Cranham), flesh-motivating Michael (Ian Holm) and scrupulous Toby (Michael Maloney) are splendidly handled by Barry Davis; while Chris Parnell is so successful in setting *The Bell* in the Fifties that it was positively jarring to see Nick and Toby's teachers from a bottle sealed with a modern top.

Michael Ratcliffe

Concerts

LSO/Del Mar

Festival Hall

It can be embarrassing to be present at an act of love, but not when the affair is conducted between a musician as generous as Norman Del Mar and a work as beautiful as Strauss's *Don Quixote*. Everything about Tuesday's performance with the London Symphony Orchestra went right. The soloist, Douglas Cummings, took a thoroughly musicianly line and properly did not try to turn the work into a concerto but bent himself with flexible variety to the orchestral discourse, while his colleagues found within themselves every shade of humour, melancholy, warmth and savagery that Mr Del Mar demanded. He made the piece so consumingly interesting and intelligible that there was no need for anyone to bother with a key to this most densely eventful of musical

narratives. It was all said, magnificently, in sound.

More than enough was said, too, for me to come out of this concert with a wholly new admiration for the work. Perhaps others of Strauss's tone poems deal with her difficult to accept, but *Don Quixote*, as Mr Del Mar so eloquently showed, breathes in almost every bar the mingled feelings aroused by the spectacle of an insufficient hero.

It is because the emotional atmosphere of the score is so complex and ambiguous that *Don Quixote* has to rest to tanglings of musical line without parallel except in later works by Mahler and Schoenberg, saturated textures which were almost unbearably alive with meaningful detail.

Suddenly, after this performance, *Don Quixote* is for me a modern classic.

Paul Griffiths

Jazz

Funk that feels good

Morrissey-Mullen

Half Moon, Putney

Apart from the aberration of the trad boom, jazz-funk represents the first variety of jazz to have become widely popular on the dance floor since the big bands peaked in the 1940s. It is a streamlined, functional style representing a considerable aesthetic improvement over its older relative, jazz-rock, which emphasized display and decoration to the exclusion of heart and beat.

True, a high proportion of jazz-funk is thin stuff, wasting the talents of eminent improvisers in over-formulated settings. The best of it, however, has a warming simplicity and directness; its audience, too, seems not to

care whether the performers are black, white, yellow (the Japanese caught on early) or green, so long as the sound fulfils the requirement.

The popularity of the style in British dance-halls has prompted the appearance of several home-grown bands, preeminent among whom is the sextet jointly led by the guitarist Jim Mullen and the tenor saxophonist Dick Morrissey, veterans respectively of the London soul and bebop circuits.

Most of the group's virtues reside in the playing of the leaders. Morrissey has long mastered the broad, grainy tone of the south-western saxophonists (notably King Curtis) who fathered the style; his phrasing is relaxed and convincing as that of any American. Mullen is a satisfying rhythm guitarist, but

it is his single-note solos, slow-burn accumulations of blues figures juggled with respect for variety, which take the ear. The rhythm section, led by John Critchinson on electric piano and synthesizer, is solid and idiomatic.

Their repertoire is not particularly distinguished. The groove, and the way it makes the solos flow, is the thing. On Tuesday night, nevertheless, in the kind of pub-backroom environment that best suits them, Alan Gorrie's lively, samba-tinted "Brazilian Nights" and Mullen's "Blue Tears", a neat 24-bar construction which releases its tension through emphatic turnarounds, proved particularly effective vehicles for this honest, gutsy music.

Richard Williams

Ballet

Manon

Covent Garden

Tuesday's performance by the Royal Ballet was being recorded by the BBC for transmission during March and for later world-wide television distribution. As the most old-fashioned of Kenneth MacMillan's big story-ballets, *Manon* should be easy for non-specialist audiences to take; the story is told mainly in silent-movie dances, and many of the dances are purely decorative, so not too much concentration is needed.

The star performance of this recording is unquestionably Anthony Dowell's as Des Grieux. He looks not a day older than when he danced the ballet's premiere eight years ago, but his dancing, if anything, has gained strength; as supple as ever, but with a tighter control.

What a pity the work could not have been preserved for posterity with the original Manon, too, the inimitable Antoinette Sibley. Jennifer Penney is probably the best of the present casts, and certainly the most photogenic, but it is all achieved with big eyes and pretty movements. There is no real character to get hold of unless, that is, you consider that the secret of Manon's nature was her vapidity.

David Wall no longer makes his first solo (which is also the ballet's opening number) quite so brilliant as he used, but his drunken solo and duet later in the ballet are still uproariously funny.

Had some of the others been encouraged to ham their parts for the cameras, or did only the stronger television lighting make it look that way? We shall see when it comes out.

John Percival

Sales of Manuscripts are booming

Sales of autograph Manuscripts totalling £1,650,000 made the 1980/1981 season into a record year. Sales in the autumn of 1981 were equally buoyant and there is every indication that the current 1981/1982 season will exceed £2 million.

Recent Prices include: The Codrington Papers for £91,000; Document signed by Henry VIII initiating the "Rough Wooing" for £17,000, (three times the price of any previous auction record); The Papers of Dame Edith Evans for £6,600; the autograph manuscript of Tennyson's "In Memoriam" for £100,000.

Future Sales

We are collecting material for our major summer sale scheduled for 29th June and the following day. The closing date for consignments is 20th April 1982.

For further information please contact Roy Davids or Felix Pryor (quoting ref: MS1).

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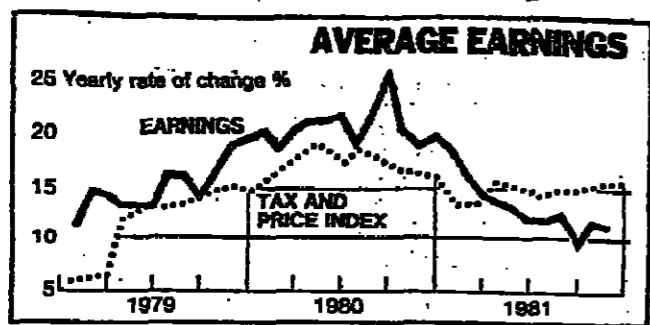
1981/82	Int. Gross	1981/82
High Low Stock	only Red.	

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هكذا من الأصل

BUSINESS NEWS

Wages rise 11.3 pc



Average earnings in the year to November rose by 11.3 per cent, the Department of Employment said yesterday. The underlying rate of increase was about 11 per cent, the same as in the previous three months. Lower pay deals now being concluded — reported by the Confederation of British Industry — have yet to feed into the figures.

Business Editor page 17

St Aubyn's £20m loss

The gilts losses at City discount house Smith St Aubyn was £20m. Details of the losses, showing that Smith lost £14m after releasing £6m of deferred tax from its hidden reserves, have emerged in the circular to shareholders explaining the £2.7m emergency rights issue announced two weeks ago. Earlier outside estimates put the losses at about £15m in the nine months from April 5 to December 31, 1981.

Shipyard closure threat

British Shipbuilders could close down the Vosper ship repair yard in Southampton unless unions agreed to changes in working practices there, Mr Robert Atkinson, chairman of BS told the Commons Select Committee on Trade and Industry yesterday. The warning came during a series of sharp exchanges between Mr Atkinson and Mr Robin Maxwell-Hyslop MP for Tiverton (Con) over the losses of BS's ship repair division.

ICI may shed 1,300 jobs

Imperial Chemical Industries announced cutbacks in plastics and petrochemicals yesterday which may involve up to 1,300 jobs.

Research and technical services are the most likely areas for the axe at ICI's divisional headquarters at Weymouth, Dorset. Phased over two years, the cuts are aimed at stemming losses in plastics and petrochemicals which totalled £75m in 1980. BP Chemicals is heading for losses of about £160m this year. Rumours of closures were dismissed as "pure speculation".

Retirement no

Cutting male retirement to 60 would be too expensive, the Confederation of British Industry decided yesterday. Instead, proposals will be developed for flexible retirement, allowing for retirement above 65 in trades with skill shortages.

MARKET SUMMARY

Special situations interest

LONDON EXCHANGE

FT Index 545.8 down 0.1
FT 100s 63.65 up 0.04
FT 100s 314.78 up 0.22
Bargains 18,500

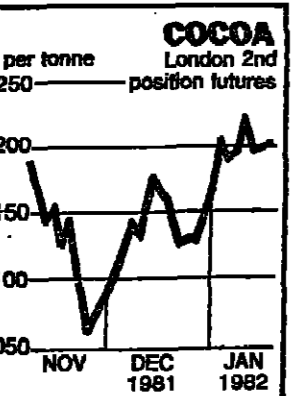
While dealers were mainly able to overcome the problems associated with the rail strike, the effect on turnover was unmistakable. The FT Index faltered after Tuesday's strong run and closed 0.1 down at 545.8.

Investors with one eye on the journey home kept their shopping lists precise with interest again centred on specialist situations. Broker Hoare Govett was in the market picking up a further 750,000 shares in Thames Valley Water. It now holds around 41 per cent of acceptances already received. The offer closes on January 26.

A strange tussle took place in shares of London & Provincial Trust, part of the Robert Fleming stable, which recently announced plans to merge with London & Montrose Investment Trust. Broker Laing & Crutchen made a dawn raid on behalf of investment intelligence (later) and bought 4.3 million shares at 13.75 per cent of the equity in an apparent attempt to block the merger.

COMMODITIES

● Tin consumers rejected a producer proposal at yesterday's meeting of the International Tin Council that intervention prices be raised by 15 per cent.



● On the London cocoa market bullish sentiment was concentrated on the near March position, which widened its premium over May to £18.50 at £1,225 per tonne.

TODAY

Cynical indicators for the United Kingdom economy Consumer spending (4th quarter 1981) Institutional investment (3rd quarter 1981) Trawlar House AGM

OTHER EXCHANGES

Tokyo: The Nikkei Dow Jones index rose 40.16 to 7,717.23. Hongkong: The Hang Seng index fell 1.49 to 1,397.08.

CURRENCIES

● The dollar was firm on the back of higher New York interest rates and the expectation of lower European interest rates. Sterling \$1.8845, down 105 points. Index 109.1 up 0.4. DM 3057 up 152 points. Gold \$373.00 down \$2.50.

MONEY MARKETS

● Period rates eased further on the view that the authorities will not oppose a lower level of interest rates. The Bank bought Band 1 bills at 14 1/4 per cent, down from 14 1/2 per cent on Tuesday.

Domestic rates: Base rates 14% 3-month interbank 15-14% Euro-currency rates: 3-month dollar 14 1/4-14 1/2 3-month DM 10 1/4-10 3-month Fr.F 15 1/2-15 1/2

Tough line from Howe for Japan and US

By Melvyn Westlake



Sir Geoffrey: Concerned

Sir Geoffrey Howe, the Chancellor, publicly told the Japanese Government yesterday that it must reflate its economy, and let the yen rise on the world money markets.

In one of his toughest speeches for some time Sir Geoffrey said that he was concerned that Tokyo's recent budget proposals were deflationary, rather than expansionary.

The Chancellor also made it clear that he expected the Reagan Administration to get its budget deficit under control. There will be lower and more stable interest rates, as well as greater currency stability, if the Americans can convince the markets of their determination to put their budget deficit back on a declining trend, the Chancellor said.

In stressing the need to get United States interest rates down, Sir Geoffrey was picking up the theme of last weekend's Paris meeting of the finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Five the leading industrial nations. A concerted effort to boost the flagging world economy through lower interest rates appears to have been broadly agreed by those attending the meeting.

The burgeoning American

budget deficit is seen by many as the main impediment to lower world-wide interest rates. Mr Jacques Delors, French Economic Affairs Minister, told Mr Donald Regan, the United States Treasury Secretary, at the Paris meeting, that the American economy was suffering the consequences of a monetary policy, and lax and contradictory budgetary policy.

In a parallel development, Count Otto Lambsdorff, West German Economics Minister, said yesterday that he expected the Bundesbank to lower interest rates further "in the foreseeable future".

He said he regarded a fall in interest rates as the most important economic measure.

In his speech yesterday to the Institute of Export, Sir Geoffrey said that governments throughout the free world were taking action to deal with their actual or potential deficit.

However, he was unhappy that the Japanese were also taking tough domestic action. Japan had the lowest inflation rate and the lowest interest rates of the major industrial nations. It also had the highest surplus on current account.

This gave it room to boost the level of domestic demand within its economy, he said.

In London the Bank of England again lowered the rate at which it bought short-dated bills from the discount houses, this time to 14 1/2 per cent.

The feeling is growing that the authorities are steadily allowing the markets to move towards a level that will permit a small reduction in bank base rates and possibly mortgage rates too. But the trend however is still a cautious one, with most bankers keen to see a sharper decline in money market rates before they consider lowering their lending rates.

ACC rejects Jetsave buy-back

By Derek Harris and Philip Robinson

A management buy-back offer of less than £3m to Associated Communications Corporation (ACC) for Jetsave, its transatlantic package holidays operation, was rejected yesterday.

This announcement from Mr Robert Holmes, ACC's chairman, who has launched an agreed bid for ACC, was followed however by a statement from Mr Reg Pycroft, Jetsave's chairman: "I am determined to bring the company out and hope to reach an amicable agreement."

Mr Pycroft built up Jetsave to be a market leader and in 1980 sold an 85 per cent stake to ACC for just under £3m.

An increased offer is expected to be made by Mr Pycroft who said he was prepared to put up a substantial part of the cash himself with other bank backing.

The indications are that the Jetsave operation, which has contributed pre-tax profits to ACC of around £1.7m over 18 months, does not fit into the new corporate plans of ACC according to Mr Pycroft. This means there could be other offers being made for Jetsave.

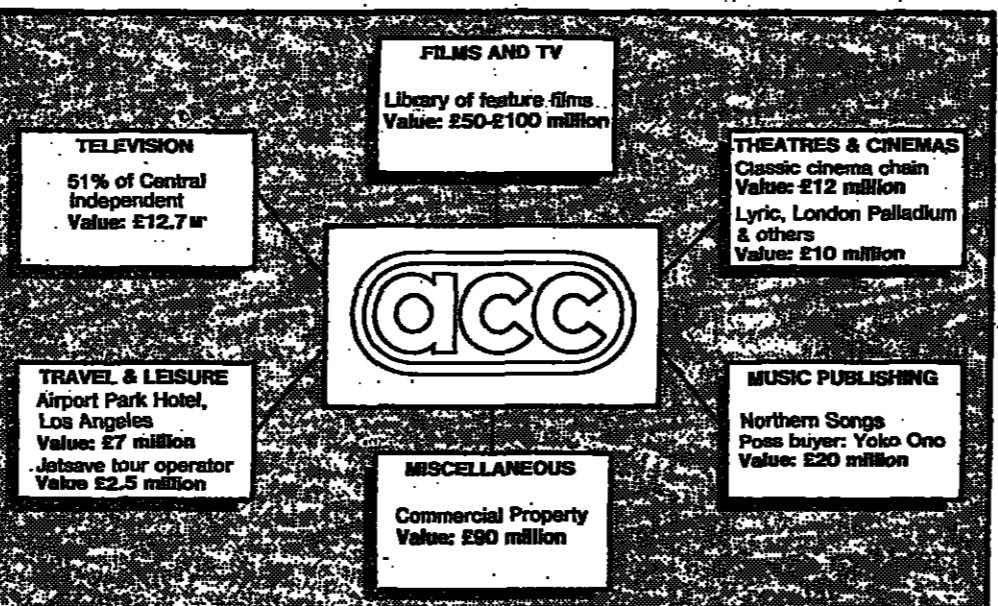
"No main board director at ACC ever came down to Jetsave's headquarters at East Grinstead," said Mr

Pycroft, who said he still admired Lord Greville.

"ACC as a parent company clearly does not have sufficient interest or resources to contribute to Jetsave's development," he added.

Meanwhile, Mr Gerald Ronson's Heron Corporation, trying to outbid Mr Holmes' ACC for ACC disclosed it had bought some non-voting shares in the group for the first time.

It paid 70p for 2,000 shares. Heron's £42.5m proposal makes the non-voters at 75.9p against the 66p being offered by Mr Holmes' ACC.



The main attraction for the entrepreneurs bidding for ACC is that the group is a pot-pourri of companies which can be easily sold off with no visible damage to the rest of the business (Ronald Fuller writes).

Plans are well-advanced for the disposal of Classic Cinemas, picked up when Lord Grade forged a short-lived link with Mr Laurie Marsh's Intercontinental group. This could fetch £7m to £12m. The Los Angeles hotel is already on the market for £5m to £7m.

But the jewel in the crown seems at present to be the music publishing side — and more particularly, Northern Songs, for which £20m does not seem far-fetched, whether or not Yoko Ono or Paul McCartney have yet made firm offers.

Films and television programmes have been written down to perhaps £37m because of the difficulty in estimating the future income from films. But anyone like Gulf & Western in the United States or perhaps Thorne-EMI in this country may be

prepared to pay well over the odds for ACC's extensive library.

Less easily realisable assets include the theatres, which are currently loss-making, and records and tapes. But the £4.2m rental income from the property side indicates that this could be worth at least £25m.

Even though all these assets are making no money, and the radio side is a burden into account, ACC's predators look as though they will be covering the purchase price with plenty to spare.

Citizens Band Radio The boom that never was

By Derek Harris, Commercial Editor

Demand for citizens band (CB) radio kits has tailed off and present moderate sales are leading electrical retailers to write down this sector as the boom that almost never was.

The first weeks after CB was legalized by the Home Office at the beginning of November saw many retailers unable to meet demand and supplies of kits were being air-freighted in from Far East manufacturers.

But sales were flagging even before Christmas, with CB licences standing at 100,000 by the end of December. Sales estimates of up to five million units in the first year have been scaled down to around one million creating a market worth about £125m.

As things have turned out CB has settled down to a steady line of additional business," said Mr Alan Sugar, chairman of London-based Amstrad, one of the biggest importers of CB radios. Amstrad has been sceptical from the beginning at a possible boom although the January sales appear to have been moving stock out of the retailers.

Amstrad's order book now goes into February, with mail order companies — currently sending out their new catalogues — adding a fillip to trade.

With the kits now largely

coming in by sea, prices have fallen between 15 and 25 per cent, though they are not expected to go much lower. For that to happen big volume increase in sales would be required.

The Curry's chain plans to continue stocking CB radio even though sales have sunk to what Mr Terry Curry, joint managing director, describes as a low level. "Mostly youngsters seem to be buyers, for fun," he said.

Some customers had been disappointed at the range of

the radios which can be 15 miles in some country areas but often only a mile and a half in cities, — according to Mr Curry.

Argos, the discount catalogue showroom chain, has reduced its orders in line with the falling market.

But the Dixons chain, with 250 outlets, which put one of the biggest promotional efforts behind CB radio, was less pessimistic yesterday. It claimed that though there was no boom, the radio kits were still selling well. The company was, however, reluctant to give figures.

Dixons thinks that the initial surge in demand came from operators of illegal sets which were switching to the legal rigs. Now newcomers to CB radio are taking it up.

But at DG Leisure Centres, chairman Mr Derek Gardner reckons that CB radio has been overrated and will have only a short life in growth terms. In some Continental markets CB radio has been a sales phenomenon lasting only a few months. In the United States, the CB fashion has faded, with current licences dropping a third from a peak of 15m.

Mr Gardner said: "I don't think the British like the idea of matey chats with all and sundry on the air as happened in the United States. People here are more reserved."



De Lorean pins hopes on loan breakthrough

By Rupert Morris

The future of the De Lorean car company and its 2,600 employees was in doubt again yesterday as Mr John De Lorean, the chairman, argued with Government officials in Belfast about further state aid.

The factory at Dunmurry, Belfast, has halved output to 200 cars a week, with nearly 500 night-shift workers idle on full pay. It is the second week of short-time working in response to a sudden and dramatic decline in demand in the United States, where all the cars are sold.

Government backing beyond the £15m guarantees announced in the House of Commons on Tuesday now depends on reviews of state £28m (£15m), but reduced to £12m was indefinitely postponed because of market conditions.

Demand for the car, which was at one time selling for well above the list price, plummeted to the point where buyers could not be attracted even with substantial discounts. Dealers suffering from the recession in the car market, could not afford to hold any more De Loreans.

Most important, the Export Credits Guarantee Department has balked at De Lorean's demand for guarantees for loans totalling £36m between now and March.

The department will not discuss its financial dealings with clients, but it is understood that it was not satisfied

with the company's performance and prospects.

The latest guarantees take the total amount of government money committed to De Lorean to £100m. But the appointment of independent consultants to assess the company's viability marks a radical change in attitude on the Government's part.

This became clear yesterday as Mr De Lorean went back to consult his board after a two-hour meeting at the plant with officials from the Northern Ireland Development Agency and the Northern Ireland Office. There was no official comment after that meeting.

But Mr De Lorean's case has not been helped by the disclosure that "performance bonuses" totalling £400,000 were to be awarded to the company's executives, including £54,000 to Mr De Lorean himself. He has since said that the money would not be paid until the company had solved its financial problems.

The Government's tough stance means it will be up to Mr De Lorean to offer some new assurance — more seats on the board at least — to be sure of the money he needs.

But Mr De Lorean retains one all-important negotiating advantage: how vital his factory is to the maintenance of stability in one of the poorest and most potentially turbulent areas of Belfast.

Defaulters cost group £5m

By Michael Prest

Defaults by customers, some of them governments, cost Tate & Lyle's sugar trading more than £5m last year, the company said yesterday.

However it announced a £5.6m increase in profits to £36.3m for the year to the end of September.

Commodity trading was still one of the company's main profit earners, contributing £9.6m to trading profits of £54.7m. Commodity trading results were nevertheless well below the £16.8m of 1980, reflecting the steep fall in sugar prices as well as defaults.

Among the defaulters were a Chilean company which Tate & Lyle alleges owes £2m; the governments of India, Thailand and the Philippines.

Tate & Lyle, which has undergone considerable changes in recent years, raised its final dividend 1.43p gross to 10.7p gross making a full year dividend of 16.4p gross — an increase of 3 per cent.

The company has paid much attention to its cane sugar production and refining. The Liverpool refinery was closed last year and the site given to the government. Partly as a result, operating profits from

the United Kingdom sugar refining rose from £5.6m to £9.4m. Profits from the whole sugar refining division were £24.5m compared with £17.4m.

Profits in molasses trading, storage and distribution, were depressed by lower prices to £10.6m from £15m.

Demand for sugar in Britain has been declining by about 2 per cent a year and the EEC sugar regime favours beet against cane.

But Lord Jellicoe, Tate & Lyle's chairman, said the company had a renewed confidence in the United Kingdom sugar refining.

NOTICE OF ISSUE

Application has been made to the Council of The Stock Exchange for the undermentioned Stock to be admitted to the Official List.

ABRIDGED PARTICULARS

The Mid Kent Water Company

(Incorporated in England on the 12th August, 1896, by the Mid Kent Water Act, 1896.)

OFFER FOR SALE BY TENDER OF

£3,000,000

9 1/2 per cent. Redeemable Preference Stock, 1987

(which will mature for redemption at par on 27th February, 1987)

Minimum Price of Issue £97.50 per £100 Stock

yielding at this price, together with the associated tax credit at the current rate, £13.92 per cent.

This Stock is an investment authorised by Section 1 of the Trustee Investments Act, 1961 and by paragraph 10 of Part II of the First Schedule thereto. Under that paragraph, the required rate of dividend on the Ordinary Capital of the Company was 4 per cent. but, by the Trustee Investments (Water Companies) Order 1973, such rate was reduced to 2.5 per cent. in relation to dividends paid during any year after 1972.

The preferential dividends on this Stock will be at the rate of 9 1/2 per cent. per annum and no tax will be deducted therefrom. Under the imputation tax system the associated tax credit at the current rate of Advance Corporation Tax (37ths of the distribution) is equal to a rate of 4 1/4th per cent. per annum.

A deposit of £10 per £100 nominal amount of Stock applied for must accompany each Tender, which must be sent to Deloitte Haskins & Sells, New Issues Department, P.O. Box 207, 128, Queen Victoria Street, London EC4P 4JX in a sealed envelope marked "Tender for Mid Kent Water Stock" so as to be received not later than 11 a.m. on Thursday, 28th January, 1982. The balance of the purchase money will be payable on or before Thursday, 25th February, 1982.

Copies of the Prospectus, on the terms of which alone Tenders will be considered, and Forms of Tender may be obtained from:—

Seymour, Pierce & Co.,
10, Old Jewry, London EC2R 8EA.

National Westminster Bank Limited,
3, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XU and
11, The Parade, Canterbury, Kent CT1 2SQ.

or from the Offices of the Company at High Street, Snodland, Kent ME5 5AH.

BUSINESS NEWS/COMPANIES AND MARKET REPORTS

HONGKONG & SHANGHAI

Touch the lion and think of Germany

Money luck — that is what the Chinese say a mere touch of the British lions outside the Hongkong & Shanghai Banking Corporation's head-office building confers. It remains to be seen if any is forthcoming from this week's meeting between Mr Michael Sandberg, the group chairman, and Mr Gordon Richardson, the governor of the Bank of England. The Monopolies Commission rejection of the bid for Royal Bank of Scotland seemed very final.

But HSBC did trail the tempting clue that it would be ready to consider an acquisition elsewhere in Europe. The board has not said so to suggestions of Germany.

HSBC takes Chinese fortune telling very seriously. "shui feng" man gave instructions for the lions to be moved out of line outside the new building, and all the main board directors flew into Hongkong to touch the lions at dawn on opening day at his instructions. Lacking

that sort of line on Germany prospects must be considered on a slide-rule approach.

Germany would be the easiest market in which to buy a major international bank — one of the attractions of the Royal Bank of Scotland. That is unless the Bundesbank says no.

In Holland and Switzerland, in theory other potential areas of expansion, the banks and insurance companies would probably get together in the incestuously close markets and lock out a bid.

Foreign money has been allowed into Germany in other areas — bits of Krupp, Daimler, Benz and Deutsche Babcock went to OPEC interests. The Chinese link is not as strategic, but the wealth of the colony might look attractive to a central bank whose banking system is ailing under the pressure of the Polish debt burden and high interest rates.

Sally White



Mr Michael Sandberg: Time to buy a German bank?

TATE & LYLE

Boardroom grip gives £5m boost

Tate & Lyle has not been a stock market favourite for a while, but that is — or should be — changing. Pretax profits up £5.6m to £36.3m, are the result of much tighter management and, what is more, they came from the company's core operations — cane sugar production and refining, commodity trading, and molasses. These businesses contributed £44.7m collectively to trading profits of £54.7m.

Rationalization has been a key word in the new management's vocabulary, and the effects of closures are clearly seen in the politically-sensitive United Kingdom cane sugar refining. After closing Liverpool, and investing heavily at Thameside, trading profits were £9.4m against £5.6m.

Part of the increase is attributable to a write-back after excessive provision at the end of last year, but there can be no doubt that the United Kingdom refining operations are looking healthy.

North America is the area of greatest promise, and if this year goes well a further expansion, particularly in the United States, is very likely.

BRITISH AEROSPACE

Don't panic over Laker rumour

British Aerospace shareholders should not panic at the news leaking out from the Laker Airways rescue operation that all of Sir Freddie Laker's European Airlines may end up on the market. The banks are taking a tough approach.

Laker has three A300s in the fleet, which may have to be sold at the end of the summer season. Seven more A300s were on order. But £500m (£264m) or so worth of Airbus are nothing in the total Airbus market. There are 505 of the aircraft on order — 347 firm orders and 159 on option. Takers are likely to be available in these conditions for both the new and used aircraft.

No profits have been taken by British Aerospace since the late 1970s. The British have 20 per cent of Airbus Industrie, the international consortium which is building the aircraft, and eventually will obtain the 20 per cent of profits due to it. That may not be until 1984-85. In the meantime it is being paid for the parts it has provided — the wings.

Sentiment has cooled towards British Aerospace since its issue, and there has been worry about the vast

cost of new plane projects which British Aerospace will provide parts. High interest rates and low passenger traffic compared with earlier forecasts have also reduced the glamorous aura of the industry.

The news now awaited by British Aerospace is the extent to which the United Kingdom government is going to provide money for the next aircraft — the A320. This is a 130-seater twin-jet short haul. The A300 is a 269 seater — for medium hauls.

Airbus Industrie will undoubtedly go ahead with building the A320. The question is whether or not British Aerospace can afford to go ahead.

It has presented the Government with three options.

● That it take a 30 per cent stake, which would cost £600m. Then it could develop the nose, forward fuselage and instrument panel.

● That it take a 20 per cent stake to design the wings and manufacture them, and the wing boxes. This would cost £400m.

● That it should provide the rear fuselage/tail unit. That is also a £400m project.

GESTETNER

Payout cut as profits plummet

Gestetner, the ailing stencil, duplicating and copying group run by co-chairmen Messrs David and Jonathan Gestetner, has not lost its knack of disappointing the stock market on every count. Turnover rose by only 6 per cent to £279.8m in the year to last October; and after charging directly against profits redundancy and other rationalization costs of £1.8m, against £26.0m, and interest charges of £5.3m, pretax profits of £15.9m fell to £6.2m, which, adjusted for inflation, became losses of £6.7m. Many European subsidiaries went into losses on which there was no tax relief so that historic total after tax profits all but vanished at £732,000.

The real net loss was £12.16m. Not surprisingly,

the gross dividend halved to 3.75p.

The disappointment was not just with the annual figures, though the second-half profits slump was if anything faster than the first six months, and 1977's heady £30m pretax profit now looks remote.

There are doubts about the management, whose control is perpetuated by a two-tier share structure through which the Gestetner family control more than half the votes. The co-chairmen take turns in the executive chair, and the impression of a cosy, if not costive family business is not allayed by a stout refusal to enfranchise the voteless shares, or by the misfortunes of Associated Communications Corporation.

There are doubts about the scope of the steps being taken to remedy profitability. The key Tottenham factory lost £3m last year. The chairman says: Action has been taken and continues to be taken to improve levels of productivity". The United Kingdom labour force has on average dropped from 4,400 to 3,600 over the past year,

and is smaller now. But the full productivity gains sought by management are not being won and there is an impression outside the group that cost-cutting has been half-hearted.

Streamlining and partial loss-elimination abroad — the pound has moved in Gestetner's favour — could optimistically indicate pretax profits of 10m this year (before possible further redundancy expenses).

But yesterday's 6p fall to 50p in the voteless shares reflects the view that the group's time as a lively situation stock has not yet come. Conceivably, only the abolition of voteless equity or a precipitous slide into a financial morass could turn it into one.

JAMES AUSTIN

Extremely competitive conditions in the steel industry have been blamed for a dramatic fall in profits at Dewsbury-based James Austin Steel Holdings, the steel stockholder, for the half-year to September. Pretax profits slumped from £431,000 to £106,000, though the volume of business was unchanged,

and sales were £7.74m, against £7.77m last year.

Mr Ronald Hooker, the chairman, says the recession has not ended and until there is an economic recovery in the United States, world trade will be slow to recover. "Nevertheless, there has been some sign of improvement in the past few months in the UK market and if this continues, it is certain that our trade will benefit", he said.

An unchanged dividend of 2.38p gross is being paid. Mr Hooker said the group's financial position was still strong and a useful contribution from interest on bank deposits had been received in the period.

The principle subsidiary, James Austin and Sons (Dewsbury), performed better than expected because poor demand for steel in the UK was offset by increased exports. Several valuable orders for processed steels were also obtained. Prices were also obtained. Prices have risen by around 15 per cent since the start of the year, and this will cause initial resistance from customers.

West Valley Steels, bought for £350,000 cash last March,

traded at a loss in the half year.

Another main subsidiary, Austin Structural Engineers, suffered more severely than expected with orders scarce and prices at an abysmally low level, said Mr Hooker. A serious loss in the half-year had made its future very uncertain and the board had decided to re-structure the company and operate at a reduced level, concentrating on steel fabrication.

The cost of redundancies would be about £160,000 and would be charged as an exceptional item in the annual accounts.

The shares fell by 3p to 65p.

ANGLIA TELEVISION

A small rise in profits for the year to October was made by Anglia Television Group, the IBA contractors for the East of England headed by Lord Townshend, which produces and exports *Survival* and *Tales of the Unexpected*, and also makes *Sales of the Century*. Yesterday it announced only a small profit increase for the year to October, from £4.6m to £4.7m. Sales increased from £32m to £37m. Earnings per share fell to 20.54p from 28.01p.

The Exchequer levy, charged on all commercial TV companies, fell from £3.3m to £1.8m, but the tax charge rose from £859,000 to £1.88m, mainly as a result of a cut in the benefit of capital allowances for expenditure on fixed assets and programmes. Depreciation and amortisation charges increased from £1.14m to £2m as a result of revaluation of freehold property and technical and other equipment. The surplus on revaluation was £3.5m from which a deferred tax charge of £1.8m was deducted. On a current cost basis the operating profit was up from £798,000 to £1.09m.

A final dividend, up from 4.28p gross to 5.42p gross on the A shares, takes the total payout for the year to 8.57p gross from 7.14p gross.

Mr David McCall, director, says: "The advertising sales in the last quarter of the year increased programme sales overseas and a



Lord Townshend

bigger contribution from associated companies, which include Sodastream, had held profits up.

The company's *Wildlife* series, which is over ten years old had been successfully exported to the United States and the rest of the world, as had the drama series *Tales of the Unexpected*.

But leaner times, if only in the short term, are expected as a result of the £2m subscription to the IBA for the cost of programme making by Channel 4. This is due to go on the air in November, but Anglia will not get the benefits of its investment until its next financial year.

This year the fourth channel is a minus and we will have to see whether we can cushion this through advertising revenues", Mr McCall said. The market view is that the immediate prospects are dim and the shares moved up only 1p to close at 117p.

But against the trends in consumer spending, television advertising is continuing to hold up strongly, though its unpredictability and the ever-present possibility of an increase in the Government levy have tended to dampen enthusiasm for the shares.

CORNELL DRESSES

Cornell Dresses, which became part of Mr Asil Nasir's Polly Peck group at the end of 1980, and fore-shadowed details of a diversification away from the textile industry.

ment valued at (Canadian) \$3.2m (£1.4m).

Rio Tinto-Zinc's wholly-owned subsidiary purchased on January 19 1982 a further 650,000 ordinary shares of W. Ward at a price of 230p cash dividend (equivalent to the value of RTZ's increased cash alternative, plus the Ward final dividend). With the 21.12 million Ward ordinary shares previously acquired, RTZ and the wholly-owned subsidiary between them own 21.77 million Ward ordinary shares (37.31 per cent of the issued ordinary capital).

CAPITAL MARKETS

Citicorp is issuing a three-year, zero-coupon Eurobond for a nominal \$150m through its overseas finance subsidiary, the lead manager, Merrill Lynch International reports. Priced at 66.50 per cent, the bond will yield 14.57 per cent and will provide \$89.75m, excluding commissions. This is the tenth zero-coupon Eurobond to be floated by a United States company since January 12.

Borrowers on the French bond market raised francs in new issues in 1981, slightly lower than 110,300m francs in 1980, according to figures released by Credit Lyonnais. Overall volume in most sectors was little changed, despite the half in new issues during electoral activity in May and June.

INTERNATIONAL COMPANIES

Flat achieved a "significant profit" in 1981, while the car sector broke even despite the extremely difficult situation of the car market, the board reports. Consolidated group turnover in 1981 rose to 22,000

million lire, from 18,130 billion lire in the previous year.

The chairman did not give any profit figure on the grounds that data still were provisional. He emphasized that most Fiat operations in 1981 showed better economic results than a year earlier.

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INTERNATIONAL



AUSTRALIA

Mass meetings of striking coal miners in New South Wales have voted against a proposal to end their action to allow talks on their pay claim to go ahead. The miners are on strike for a 20 per cent pay rise.

● Petroleum exploration in Australia is scheduled to double this year in terms of the number of wells planned. A total of 302 new wells are scheduled.

BELGIUM

Belgian unemployment in mid-January surged to a record 10.4 per cent representing 433,200 workers. The comparable rate one year earlier was 9.3 per cent or 384,700.

● The EEC Commission has imposed an anti-dumping duty on United States Phenol. The duty follows a provisional levy imposed last July.

UNITED STATES

The United States inflation-adjusted gross national product fell at a seasonally adjusted annual rate of 2.2 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1981, after rising 1.4 per cent in the third.

MALAYSIA

Yamaha will assemble 10,000 motorcycles a month in Malaysia, up from the current 8,500, 7,000 units a month, to cope with increased demand.

AUSTRIA

Press reports that Austria is seeking a \$1,000m (£532m) loan from Saudi Arabia are premature. Finance Ministry sources said Mr Mohammed Abal-Khalil, the Saudi Finance Minister, is visiting Austria for talks on economic relations.

INDIA

A two-day meeting of the Indo-European Economic Community Joint Commission begins in New Delhi tomorrow. It is the first since India and the EEC signed a new five-year commercial and economic cooperation agreement last June.

CANADA

December activity in Canadian manufacturing and processing industries showed a decrease from November, according to a survey. ● Canadian consumer confidence turned slightly upward in the last three months of last year ending nine months of decline.

JAPAN

Japan's plans to cut non-tariff trade barriers will include an after-delivery tariff assessment system to smooth the flow of goods into the country.

Base Lending Rates

ABN Bank	14 1/2%
Barclays	14 1/2%
BCCI	14 1/2%
Consolidated Crs	14 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co	14 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	14 1/2%
Midland Bank	14 1/2%
Nat Westminster	14 1/2%
TSB	14 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	14 1/2%

* 7 day deposit on sum of £10,000 and under 12 months £250,000 13 1/2%

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The Over-the-Counter Market

1981/82	High	Low	Company	Price	Ch'ge	Gross Divid	Yld %	Actual	P/E	Full Yield
120	100	ABT Hides 10% CUTS	120	—	10.0	8.3	—	—	—	—
75	62	Airsprung Group	69	—	4.7	6.8	11.0	15.2	—	—
51	33	Armitage & Rhodes	46	—	4.3	9.3	3.8	8.7	—	—
201	187	Barclay Hill	201	—	9.7	4.8	9.8	11.9	—	—
104	82	Debonair Services	82	—	6.0	7.3	4.1	7.7	—	—
129	97	Frank Horsell	128	—	6.4	5.0	11.5	23.7	—	—
73	39	Frederick Parker	73	—	1.7	2.3	31.7	—	—	—
78	46	George Blair	48	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
102	93	IPC	95	—	7.3	7.7	6.8	10.3	—	—
105	100	Isis Conv Prof	105	—	15.7	15.0	—	—	—	—
113	95	Jackson Group	96	—	7.3	3.0	6.3	—	—	—
130	108	James Burroughs	114	—	8.7	7.6	8.3	10.5	—	—
334	250	Robert Jenkins	250	—	31.3	12.5	3.5	—	—	—
59	51	Scruttons "A"	55	—	5.3	9.6	8.5	—	—	—
222	167	Torday & Carlisle	167	—	10.7	6.4	5.4	—	—	—
15	10	Twinklark Ord	13	—	15.0	20.3	—	—	—	—
80	66	Twinklark 15% ULS	74	—	3.0	10.3	5.2	8.8	—	—
44	29	Unilock Holdings	29	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8	—	—
103	76	Walter Alexander	76	—	6.4	8.4	5.0	8.8	—	—
263	212	W. S. Yates	216	—	13.1	6.1	4.1	8.3	—	—

FOR SALE

RADLEY FASHION GROUP LIMITED

Offers invited by the Receivers for the business on a going-concern basis including trademarks and order book.

Reply to: Thomson McLintock & Co., 70 Finsbury Pavement, EC2. Ref: SSJ

Final Offer by RTZ for Ward

RTZ's final offer is £2.30 nominal of RTZ convertible stock or 225p cash per Ward share both plus Ward's final 5.2p dividend.

Failure to accept in time could result in this final offer lapsing; the value of your shares could then fall substantially and remain depressed.

Completed and signed Forms of Acceptance and Transfer should be received not later than 3pm on Tuesday, 26 January 1982 by:

Midland Bank Limited

Stock Exchange Services Department

Mariner House, Pepys Street, London EC3N 4DA.

You may also hand in your form not later than 3pm on Monday, 25 January 1982 at one of these addresses:-

BIRMINGHAM
Midland Bank Limited
130 New Street, Birmingham.

BOURNEMOUTH
Midland Bank Limited
59 Old Christchurch Road,
Bournemouth.

BRISTOL
Midland Bank Limited
49 Corn Street, Bristol.

CARDIFF
Midland Bank Limited
56 Queen Street, Cardiff.

EDINBURGH
Morgan Grenfell (Scotland) Limited
35 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh.

GLASGOW
MacLay, Murray & Spens
169 West George Street, Glasgow.

BUSINESS NEWS/FOCUS AND COMMENT

PEOPLE

A Capulet to the Montague?

Michael Montague, chairman of the theatre firm Valmor Company, has another job selling cold, wet England to British and foreign tourists. He doubles as chairman of the statutory English Tourist Board and, I hear, is so successful that he is being reappointed to a second, three-year term.

Montague, however, is being less than successful with his opposite number at



The Arts Council's Kenneth Robinson (left) and the Tourist Board's Michael Montague.

the Arts Council, Kenneth Robinson. Montague, aware of the poor season English coast resorts could face this summer, suggested that the Arts Council could back a few seaside summer showplaces for the many as well as opera and ballet for the few.

But Robinson, former chairman of English National Opera and Labour Minister, is giving a chilly reception to such proletarian nonsense.

Stake me to your leader

Sir James Hanson, chairman of Hanson Trust, the firm which recently bought the Ever Ready battery group, is one man who recently thinks Mrs Thatcher is leading us towards the light. Sir James is giving £40,000 of Hanson Trust shareholders' money to the Conservative Party, having donated nothing last year. He says he is concerned Mrs Thatcher is wavering in her economic resolve and the money is to demonstrate support for her policies.

© The area controller did not have far to send for fire engines when a blaze was reported at an office block on the Thames waterfront in London yesterday. The fire, in which nobody was hurt, was at Number 26 Albert Embankment. GLC fire brigade HQ is at Number 8.

Give and take a gift or two



Business gift student Dr Kathleen Reardon.

It took time, but at last Parker has managed to catch up with Kathleen Reardon (above), who wrote that study for The Parker Pen Company which I reviewed the other day. International Business Gift-Giving Customs. Dr Reardon is assistant professor of — wait for it — interpersonal and mass media communication sciences at the University of Connecticut. When the peripatetic Dr Reardon returned to base, she told People — interpersonally, of course — that what she likes in a gift is not size or cost but something that "reflects some consideration of whom Kathleen Reardon is."

She is a lady who collects dolls and plays indoor racquetball, so there are two clues for starters. Of all the countries covered in her study (which is no gift — Parker is charging \$5 a copy) Britain, she says, "emerges as one of the least gift-giving." Dr Reardon recommends instead entertainment, whether at home, in a restaurant or at the theatre.

Ross Davies

NEW APPOINTMENTS

Sir David Nicolson has joined the board of Selincourt as non-executive director. Mr D. A. Gledhill has been appointed to the board of directors of Cathay Pacific Airways. Mr Keith Ness has been appointed managing director of Combox, a subsidiary company of Tarmac. Doctor John T. Harvey, managing director of Union Carbide UK, has taken over the additional responsibility of direct management control of the company's carbon products division. This role was previously performed by John Brannan, the general manager of the division, who has accepted an appointment with Union Carbide Europe, based in Geneva.

US 'building societies' are facing severe financial problems. Frank Lipsius reports

Shotgun marriages for America's savings banks



The New York Bank for Savings: deep financial trouble

New York. The New York State Banking Department announced at the weekend that the Buffalo Savings Bank had come to the rescue of a second New York bank threatened with bankruptcy.

The merger will cost the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation \$30 million in a straight cash deal which allows the Buffalo — now merging with the Western New York Savings Bank having already swallowed the Union Dime several weeks ago — to become the nation's fourth largest savings bank with assets of \$5,500 million.

This is the fourth forced merger in New York State since the end of last year.

The deal brought a sigh of relief from the banking authorities who have been desperately trying to avoid a merger between one of these savings institutions and a commercial bank.

Such a union would require by law the actual closing of a bank and a transfer of assets, while the thrust of the effort to date has been to paper over the desperate condition of savings banks with the appearance of a routine, though forced, merger with a similar bank.

The authorities overlooked the monopoly implications of the bank's assumption of 32 per cent of all deposits in the New York State community of Buffalo in order to approve the merger. While in voluntary mergers the State can take as much as four months to deliberate on its implications, a New York State banking official admitted that the savings banks working "under pressure" to find a partner for the failing Western New York Savings Bank.

Prosperous savings banks are hard to come by these days. Low fixed interest rates are discouraging savers and the inflation is eating away at banks' income from low-yield, long-term mortgages and bonds.

The New York Bank for Savings, which has half a million depositors and assets of more than \$3,500 million, has been on sale for the past three months.

It is in deep financial trouble and is not alone. But in their quietly aggressive way, state banking authorities are avoiding an aura of panic by finding and subsidizing mergers between the dwindling number of healthy savings banks and savings and loan associations (S and Ls) — equivalent to building societies — and the growing number of failing institutions.

So hard has it been for the banking authorities to unload the New York Bank for Savings that it may yet have to be divided into more bite-

size bait to match a buyer's understandably wary appetite. It now looks likely that the rescue will be sufficiently unorthodox to make banking history. The New York Bank for Savings could be the first savings bank taken over by a commercial bank (the Chase Manhattan has expressed interest on the right terms). But the New York Bank for Savings is only one of many sliding down the precipice. In November New York State superintendent of banks Miss Muriel Siebert called on the government to establish a special commission to study the losses that had hit 69 per cent of all S and Ls in 1980 and produced a net loss to the industry in 49 states.

The erosion of the financial base of these "dursts" as they are called was now a national problem, she said.

Last year was a horrifying one for the savings banks. Altogether 23 of them faced forced mergers (compared with 10 the year before); and for the first time a New York State bank had to call on the assistance of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation (FDIC) to work out a so-called "supervised" or forced merger.

That marriage between the

Greenwich and the Metropolitan Savings Banks cost the FDIC \$485m, and with 500 more thrifts already in technical bankruptcy, or in danger of failing within the year, the federal insurance pool of \$18,000m no longer seems the comfortable cushion it once was.

If America is to do without the thrifts altogether it may also have to get along with a severely constricted new housing market which will somewhat tarnish the American dream of every working person owning his own home, a prospect which as superintendent Siebert put it "has contributed greatly to the political stability of which we Americans are justifiably proud."

Ironically, the most prosperous savings banks and therefore the obvious candidates for taking over less successful ones, were the first to turn their backs on the traditional role of the thrifts in providing 30-year mortgages for single-family homes.

The Jamaica Savings Bank, only one of four to show a profit in the third quarter of 1981 among New York City's 38 savings banks, was also the only one to be refused permission to open a new branch.

The state banking department came to that decision after accusing the bank of refusing to invest in poorer areas of the city, a charge which the bank denies, although its president admits that the state's usury laws had caused him to look elsewhere for more profitable lending anyway.

The Jamaica is known as a contentious and aggressive institution that progressively cut its mortgages from ten to five, to three-year terms, a move which prevented its being squeezed as interest rates went up, but also put it outside the definition superintendent Siebert gave of the role that thrifts were intended to fulfill: investing in long term fixed rate residential mortgages and long-term bonds.

Praising the failed Greenwich, she commented: "It literally helped build communities. But by being a good citizen, it like many of its sister institutions, was trapped in an unprecedented interest rate squeeze."

The problem for thrifts has been that unregulated money-market mutual funds offered by stock brokers have largely replaced savings accounts for the American middle-classes.

The funds' total assets

doubled in 1981 to \$190,000m while S and Ls reported a drop in net worth of \$4,300m to end the year at only \$28,000m.

The money market funds invest in short-term borrowings issued by companies as certificates of deposit and by the government as Treasury Bills. Because the minimum lot of such dealings is \$10,000, they were beyond the means of small investors until the advent of the money market funds, which invest by pooling their customers' assets.

With maturities of under 30 days, the funds can closely follow the rates available on the short-term money markets.

The New York Times summed up the growing dissatisfaction of savers with the thrifts in an investment-advice column called, "The Year's Worst Investment." Savings accounts headed a list that included such notable problem areas as gold (which halved in value in the past year), and backing Broadway shows, where less than a quarter of the openings last more than a week.

Slating savings accounts as "senseless", the article pointed out the sad truth that the top interest rate at savings institutions, set by law, remains a maximum of 5 1/2 per cent.

While the thrifts are at a severe disadvantage against mutual funds whose interest rates fluctuate in line with the prime rate, the bankers have tenaciously fought deregulation that would force them to increase the cost of their money when their portfolios are still stuffed with 30-year mortgages with single-digit fixed interest rates.

Instead, they got the government to establish all-savers certificates as a one-year stopgap measure. Tax exempt, and paying a yield equal to 70 per cent of one-year treasury notes, the certificates looked like a neat way for the government to subsidize the banks' desperate need for funds at lower than prime interest rates.

But interest rates played tricks on this supposed solution when declining rates at the end of 1981 brought the all-savers into single digit territory, "even though," said Merrill Lynch, Pierce, Fenner and Smith analyst Jerry Baron, "it's a pretty good deal on after-tax comparison."

The shotgun marriages among the troubled thrifts are supplementing a more orderly and much needed overhaul of banking regulations. With stockbrokers playing an increasing role as unregulated financiers, the banking community is rightly calling for a more comprehensive approach.

Business Editor

De Lorean: just a pit stop?

The De Lorean car company, which has been a political hot potato since its inception, is rapidly growing hotter still.

Its \$25,000 sports cars, which sold so well in the United States for most of last year, are piling up in dealers' yards and showrooms, unable to find buyers even at substantial discounts. Output from the Belfast factory has been halved.

De Lorean blames the slump in the United States car market and confidently predicts an upturn in the spring. But should luxury cars like the De Lorean be so vulnerable to recession? More likely, the distinctive gull-wing doors are now seen as an impractical gimmick, and the car has, of course, had its critics.

Yesterday it was announced by Northern Ireland minister Adam Butler that independent consultants are being appointed to assess the company's performance and prospects. This should soon establish whether the De Lorean car is viable, or whether, like the yo-yo and hula hoop, it has had its day. The potential dilemma for the Government if the report's findings are that the car is not viable is obvious. Having brought 2,500 jobs and a measure of stability to a volatile Catholic area of Belfast, could it afford the human misery and the political opprobrium that would result from closure?

Whether the Government will have to face up to that decision remains to be seen. Where policy takes Government into such types of investment, the public must accept that there will be a number of failures. That is not, of course, the same as saying that the Government entered into this particular venture on the most sensible of terms in the first place.

Earnings Could be worse

Yesterday's encouraging pay figures from the Department of Employment and the Confederation of British Industry, coupled with the receding threat of a miners' strike, will come as welcome news to the Government in its anti-inflation campaign.

But undue optimism would be misplaced. According to the CBI most settlements in manufacturing, where recession is most likely to exert downward pressure on pay, have been in the 4 to 6 per cent range in the early months of the present pay round which began last August. This is down from 7 to 9 per cent in the first half of the 1980-81 pay round, but the average remains above the 4 per cent or so the Government and the CBI want.

In other sectors, such as financial services, settlements are also slowing from last year but are running ahead of manufacturing. And with only 5 per cent of workers settling between August and December, the possibility of widespread wage yet to come cannot be ruled out.

However, this threat now seems less likely to come from the public sector than

was feared only a few weeks ago. The miners seem to be about to settle, as the water workers have already done, for just more than 5 per cent, compared with 13 per cent last year. The local authority manual workers have accepted 7 per cent, roughly the same as last year. That leaves the civil servants demanding 13 per cent, a claim dismissed by Government as "unrealistic", especially since Civil Service pay is already running about 5 per cent above the average elsewhere in the economy.

Perhaps public sector workers have learnt a lesson from last year — that high pay settlements cost jobs. Planned job losses in the Civil Service — from a complement of 740,000 in May 1979 to 630,000 by April 1984 — have been accelerated to keep within cash limits. Council manual workers also have seen jobs disappear and more will go this year to help pay for the over-budget settlement.

Only in the more insulated monopoly state industries are there free to slash investment or put up prices — can workers, to Mrs Thatcher's annoyance, feel safe from job losses. So, perhaps, the government should be thankful to have got off so lightly thus far.

Power stations Questions still

The wheels may be continuing to turn slowly towards a PWR power station at Sizewell, but the evolution of government policy of ordering one power station a year throughout the 1980s seems as open to doubt as ever. What the energy authorities might want and what the government feels can be afforded remain two different matters; and that is before one complicates the issue further with arguments about nuclear and non-nuclear, PWRs, AGRs and fast breeders.

The CEBG, the customer, has wanted a PWR station, and has the backing of the government. Whereas the AGR is effectively an entirely British package, the PWR means buying in both the technology and some at least of the major components from the US. That has particularly worried some of the major UK contractors Babcock, NEI and GEC since experience in a PWR contract in the UK would have given a lead into future contracts overseas.

The growing doubt of course is whether the PWR (post Three Mile Island) has a rosy future in world markets in any case.

Not that a switch in emphasis back to non-nuclear fuels would necessarily prove disastrous for UK companies in the sector. They are probably as competitive as any in the field, what they do need, though, is a feeling of certainty both that the domestic orders, of one kind or another, are going to be there in the years through the mid and late 1980s, and that the PWR really is a goer rather than a drawing board design that will simply be leap-frogged for the fast breeder.

PERSPECTIVE: MONOPOLIES

By Kevin Page

England's desire to keep the Royal Bank out of the hands of Hongkong and Shanghai. No recommendations were forthcoming on informal regulation. But the census of the Bank of England on its role as the regulator of the banking system clearly played a crucial role in the commission's decision.



Mr Jeremy Hardie, deputy chairman of the Monopolies Commission

The commission which should be investigating industrial and commercial questions became embroiled in politics. No one — except the Scottish lobby and presumably the bank — seems satisfied with the outcome. Critics say that on the Royal Bank bids, the Government ducked the issue of what was or was not deemed to be in the public (or more clearly the national) interest and left the question to a body which did not feel itself qualified to take a view.

One commission member answers this by pointing out that there are no rules of law, a body somewhere between the courts and the government must be responsible for making recommendations on the public interest.

It is clear that Whitehall is continuing a 30-year-old process by devolving much of the decision-making on merger policy upon the MMC. Since the commission was established in 1948, its powers have been widened and sharpened, first by the Monopolies and Mergers Act

1965, which brought service industries within its investigative scope, and secondly by the 1973 Fair Trading Act which empowered the commission to look at the nationalized industries.

A Green Paper in 1978 (the Limer report) recommended that companies seeking to merge should show to the commission positive benefits for efficiency before a takeover was allowed. This report remains on the table and it is more than likely that MMC reports have noted the desire for the onus of proof to be placed on merger candidates.

"But if a tougher mergers policy is required, then that is the job of government", says Mr Hardie.

The first job for the commission is to look at any possible detrimental effects on competition. The second task is to examine possible benefits.

The commission's scope was widened once more under the Competition Act 1980 which empowered it to conduct "efficiency audits" of the nationalized industries. The report a year ago on British Gas recommended options for the sale of the showrooms. But financial measures are deemed to be a matter for government and beyond the commission's purview. For example the report on British Rail's Southern Region commuter business recommended options on matters like guard rostering but was barred from considering financing requirements.

Two other charges levelled at the commission's role apart from who should define "public interest" and competition policy, relate to the inconsistency of recent reports and the fact that they have made character judgments on merger candidates, rather in the manner of a headmaster's report.

On inconsistency, Mr Hardie feels much of the recent criticism has been "ill-founded".

"There is something inherent in references to us which give rise to criticisms of our reports" he says with an air of inevitability. On allegations that recent reports have condemned certain people, Mr Hardie remains silent. "The great weakness of the American system whereby a company holding two per cent of a market could be judged to be in a monopolistic position, is that mergers are more complex. I

would be alarmed at judging mergers in a mechanical way."

But if Mr Hardie does not see himself in the mould of a tough trust-buster, the consumers' champion against the massed big business battalions, it seems clear that the government has silently passed much of its responsibilities for competition policy to the commission.

Now, although Mr Hardie defends the excellence of

commission members, questioning being asked in Whitehall about the blurring of the government's and the commission's roles in defining the public interest and competition policy. The interests of employees managers, consumers and the radical overhaul of the industrial structure in the next 20 years, should not be left in the hands of a statutory body with powers only to recommend, say the commission's critics.

Tate & Lyle 1981

'A stronger Group is emerging'

The Chairman, the Rt Hon Lord Jellicoe, reports:

- * A return to an improved quality of earnings and a more acceptable level of profit — £36.3m before tax — achieved in a very difficult economic climate.
- * A better balanced profit "mix" with our less cyclical businesses both at home and abroad showing marked improvements.
- * We propose, in conjunction with our workforce, to undertake a modernisation programme in our UK refineries.
- * Recommended increase in final dividend from 6.5p to 7.5p per unit of stock making 11.5p for the year.
- * The achievement of the objective we set ourselves three years ago to complete the re-shaping of the Group by 1981 enables us now to give our full concentration to the growth and development of the business.

Summary of Results

	1981 £ million	1980 £ million
Turnover	2,188.3	1,420.1
Profit before taxation	36.3	30.7
Ordinary Dividend	11.5p	10.5p
Earnings per £1 ordinary stock unit	37.2p	31.3p



Copies of the Annual Report for the period ended 26th September 1981 will be mailed to stockholders shortly and will be available from J E Wright, Secretary, Tate & Lyle PLC, Sugar Quay, Lower Thames Street, London EC3R 6DQ.

Corina	165	370
Daviera	70	120
Corina	30	120
Jourmayeur	150	270
Adamo	100	130
Adagnaga	60	200
Adesimo	100	200
Adonna di C	40	130
Ortisei	30	80
San Martino	60	140
Elva	50	70

Racing

Aldaniti leads 81 hopefuls on long road to Aintree

By Michael Seely

Aldaniti and Royal Mail, first and third in last year's Sun Grand National, are among the 81 entries for this year's race. In fact, eight of last season's 12 finishers are engaged, the adventures being Spartan Missile, Royal Mail, So and Sebastian V, and the others.

The future of our most exciting steeplechase still hangs in the balance. Lord Plummer, the chairman of the Horserace Betting Levy Board, says today: "We are still trying to get Bill Davies to the negotiating table. But unless we obtain the increase in the betting licence for, nothing is certain as racing has so many other priorities beside the National."

Josh Clifford, Aldaniti's trainer, is abroad on holiday with Fred Winter. However, a stable spokesman said, "We have had Aldaniti back at Finsbury since the Tuesday before Christmas. He is very well and if we can get enough work into him, Aldaniti may have his first race in the Whitbread Trial Steeplechase at Ascot on February 10, the race he won last year."

It is usual for there not to be a preponderance of good-class horses among the entries. Two interesting possible runners are Richard Head's pair, Border Incident and Uncle Bing. Border Incident is still one of the best chasers in the country, despite his injury-plagued career. Under Uncle Bing's jumping when winning the Topham Trophy over

part of the National course in 1980, with John Francome in the saddle, was spectacular.

Mick O'Toole has entered Chiarullah, who was one of the earliest winners of the Queen Mother Champion Chase in 1980, although the Irish horse was subsequently disqualified in favour of Another Dolly.

Although last year's runner-up, Spartan Missile, is still on the sidelines another well-known hunter-chaser will be trying to blaze the same trail this spring. Last year, Critter, owned by the Cheltenham and Liverpool Foxhunting, with the newly-elected jockey Club member, Dick Saunders, on board. And this time Critter's owner, the Cottessmore farmer, Frank Gillman, intends to run his pride and joy in both the Cheltenham Gold Cup and the National.

Some useful stayers engaged are the 1979 Welsh Grand National winner, Peter Scott, and Waggoner's Walk, who won Newcastle's Eider Steeplechase and the Kim Muir Steeplechase at Cheltenham last year. The only runner who entered the race from Aldaniti, is Rubisic but the Cumbrian trainer, Gordon Richards, has entered several interesting candidates, Man Alive and Current Gold. Fred Winter's two possible runners are Rough and Tumble and Rolls Ramble.

Although the weights will not be published until next Wednesday, the managers of Aintree, have already opened a book on the race. They make Aldaniti their favourite at 14-1, followed by Cavity Hunter, Critter and Royal Mail, who are bracketed together at 20-1. The four 25-1 chances are Peter Scott, Waggoner's Walk, Three To One and Waggoner's Walk. Michael Dickinson said that Cavity Hunter was an unlikely participant and that if his status is to be represented it will be by Bueche Glorior.

If the go-ahead is given at Lingfield Park today, the spotlight will be focused on David Elsworth's two Daily Express Triumph Hurdle hopes, Right Regent and Omnipotent, and to run in the first and second divisions of the Keep Novices Hurdle.

Right Regent, a useful stayer on the flat, gained his first



Aldaniti, the 1981 National hero, is likely to reappear at Ascot next month.

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Scholarships 2: developing talents other than purely intellectual

Stirling needs more support

In 1980 Stirling became the first Scottish university to offer sports bursaries. Dr Ian Thomson is the Director of Physical Recreation there, and his reasons for establishing such a scheme were much the same as those at Bath, of developing talents other than the purely intellectual.

Dr Thomson has met no opposition from colleagues as long as academic standards can be maintained and there is no direct cost to the university. "To be fair, they do recognize that the type of publicity associated with high level sport is beneficial and this may have influenced their judgment," he said.

So far, three students have been admitted to the scheme. The bursary permits a student to extend his or her degree programme by a year. It is used to meet tuition fees and half of the maintenance costs of the extra year.

In addition, each sports bursar follows a planned programme of training at home and abroad and an element of the bursary is used to cover the associated costs. A bursary costs the two sponsors, the Scottish International Education Trust (2) and the International Year of the Child Fund (1) approximately £5,500.

After only one year, Dr Thomson is satisfied that he should concentrate on a maximum of three sports. His reasoning is that "sports bursars consume a great deal of one's time and they need regular access to facilities".

Thus Stirling will concentrate on golf, badminton and canoeing. He is conscious that "bursars are only one, albeit special group in the university, and therefore it is important to ensure a disproportionate amount of time is not allocated to them".

Moreover, it is quite apparent that the type of problems facing badminton players are rather different from those of canoeists. If there are four to six badminton players it will be much easier to share crampers, coaching, travel and equipment and thereby reduce unit costs. Equally, it is easier to justify regular bookings in a sports hall for a group than for an individual.

There is an additional advantage in that a group can meet and discuss their progress. This has already begun with the two badminton bursars, Susan Bell and Graham Martin.

In the short term it is hoped to establish four bursars in each of the three sports. "I consider that I could deal with the growth stages of that size of group within my available time, and still give the quality of care and supervision which is required," Dr Thomson said.

He has found that his students have run into similar problems as those experienced at Bath. One was so immersed in his sport that his academic work suffered, and another had a loss of form put down to adjusting to university life.

The first student sports bursary offered most attractive national media coverage. At Bath, Martyn Hedges did just that, going from a British national and one champion in canoe slalom to pro-world champion in five years.

At Stirling Colin Dalgleish, and accounting student, has done as well. He had a run of excellent performances in British amateur golf in 1981. He was a quarter-finalist in the British Amateur championship; he won the Scottish Amateur, and represented Britain in the Walker Cup against the United States.

What was interesting about the Amateur was that another quarter-finalist was Malcolm Lewis, the second sports scholar at Bath.

Once again, the major problem for Stirling is finding suitable sponsors. Dr Thomson feels it is time the University Grants Committee or the Sports Aid Foundation or student organizations put

money into the scheme. He is hopeful that in the near future that his own university will offer a bursary.

It does seem sad that the innovations being carried out to benefit Scottish sport should be placed in jeopardy because funds are lacking. Student sport is in such a state, generally, with four organizations representing colleges, polytechnics and universities. Perhaps, when one considers how much public money is being spent on student sport, it is time for a chief executive for all student sport to be appointed.

It is early days at Stirling. But one interesting development that Dr Thomson has noticed is that even when students do not win a bursary, they still want to go to Stirling. Consequently, there is an excellent spin-off, assisting and improving the University of Stirling's sporting reputation.

January is decision month for next year's bursaries. For the four on offer, there is a field of top junior Scottish internationals. What a pity that when the talent is available, the back-up resources are not.

Derek Wyatt



Dr Thomson: concentrating on three sports

Lingfield programme

Tote Double 2.30 and 3.30. Treble 2.0, 3.0 and 4.0

1.30 KEEP HURDLE (Div 1: 4-y-o; £890: 2m) (11 runners)

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2.0 DRAWBIDGE CHASE (E3,603: 2½m) (4 runners)

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Today's television and radio programmes

Edited by Peter Davalle

<p>BBC 1</p> <p>9.05 For Schools, Colleges: The line-up of subjects today is: Living in a Developing Country, It's Your Choice, Out of the Past, Science Workshop, Scene, Maths-in-a-Box, Search (A Journey down the River Taff) and On the Rocks; 12.20 Interval; 12.30 News After Noon; 12.57 Financial Report and new headlines; 1.00 Pebble Mill at One; Personalities in the Lake District, including actor Anthony Valentine and film director Ken Russell, and a pack of hounds; 1.45 King Rollo; 1.50 Stop - Go! (sheep in trouble); 2.00 You and Me; (Duncan and the Monster); 2.15 For Schools, Colleges: Music Time and Television Club; 3.00 Close-down; 3.15 Holiday: Majorca, the Loire Valley, and Yorkshire Moors (7); 3.55 Play School (see BBC 2, 11.00am).</p>	<p>BBC 2</p> <p>11.00 Play School: Jan Wahl's story Sylvester Bear Overland. Also to be shown on BBC1 at 8.55; Close-down follows at 11.25; 12.00 Open University. Today's subjects are: The First Years of Life (all years); 12.25 Health Choices (home cooking); and, at 12.50, Governing Schools (the meetings). Open University Programmes from 1.45; Interview until 3.55; 4.00 The Sullivan: Australian family serial, set in the last war; 1.00 News, and Financial Times Index; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Plus: Film about a Harley Street day surgery centre. Both its medical and economic aspects are examined; 2.45 Love Among the Artists: Shaw's novel, adapted as a serial by Stuart Latham, Adrian (Marty Jacob) is enchanted by a lovely Polish pianist (Caroline Rossini); 3.00 The Sullivan: John Stride, Geraldine James, Judy Campbell and Jane Carr (7).</p>	<p>ITV LONDON</p> <p>8.30 For Schools: Physics, My world, Seeing and Doing, Geography, A-level biology, Basic Maths, Over to You (costs) and Middle English; 12.00 Little Blue: the baby elephant; 12.10 Get up and Go! with Beryl Reid; 12.30 The Sullivan: Australian family serial, set in the last war; 1.00 News, and Financial Times Index; 1.20 Thames area news; 1.30 Take the High Road: Scottish estate serial; 2.00 After Noon Plus: Film about a Harley Street day surgery centre. 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(series) "Fete takes a hand". 12.55 Weather. 1.00 The World at One. 1.40 The Archers. 2.00 News. 2.02 Women's Hour. 2.05 News. 2.07 Play: "A Glaring Lack of Ambition" by Peter Siskind. 2.10 Report South West. 4.15 Bookstart. Magazine programme about books. 4.45 Story Time: "The Simple Life" by H. E. Bates (second of two parts). 5.00 PM. 5.55 Weather. 6.00 News and Financial Report. 6.30 Any Answers. 6.55 It's a Bargain. 7.00 News. 7.05 The Archers. 7.20 Time for Verse. Simon Brett presents a selection of "Useful Verses". 7.30 Medical Street Quartet: Recital, part 1: Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, and Schubert. 8.20 Preview: Cornish Legends. Talk by Gerald Priestland. 8.40 The Islands of the Isles of Scilly. The story of a family that has recorded the islands' history with the camera. 9.30 Kaleidoscope. 9.50 Weather.</p>	<p>Radio 3</p> <p>6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. Walton, Mendelssohn, Bach, Poulenc; records. 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Mendelssohn, J. C. Bach, Schumann, records. The works include Schumann's Symphony No 4 and J. C. Bach's Sextet in G flat. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer Haydn: records. 10.00 The World Tonight. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (4). 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 11.50 News and Weather. 12.00 News. 12.05 Weather. Forecast. 12.30 For Schools. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 11.00 For Schools. 2.00 For Schools. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.</p>	<p>Radio 2</p> <p>6.55 Weather. 7.00 News. 7.05 Morning Concert. Walton, Mendelssohn, Bach, Poulenc; records. 8.00 News. 8.05 Morning Concert (continued) Mendelssohn, J. C. Bach, Schumann, records. The works include Schumann's Symphony No 4 and J. C. Bach's Sextet in G flat. 9.00 News. 9.05 This Week's Composer Haydn: records. 10.00 The World Tonight. 11.00 A Book at Bedtime: "Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man" by James Joyce (4). 11.15 The Financial World Tonight. 11.30 Today in Parliament. 11.50 News and Weather. 12.00 News. 12.05 Weather. Forecast. 12.30 For Schools. 10.30 Listen with Mother. 11.00 For Schools. 2.00 For Schools. 5.50 PM (continued). 11.00 Study on 4.</p>	<p>Radio 1</p> <p>6.00 At Radio 2. 7.00 Mike Raven. 9.00 Simon Bates. 11.30 Dave Lee Travis. 1.00 News. 1.05 Festival Lunchtime Concert. Piano Trio recital direct from St George's, Brandon Hill, Bristol: Haydn, Dvorak. 2.00 Nonsense. Lyric tragedy by David Barrington in one act (French Radio recording). 3.10 Mozart, Brahms and Bartok Chamber music recital. 4.55 News. 5.00 Manly for Pleasure. 7.00 Mozart Concerto for Flute, Harp and Orchestra (O.R.A. recording conducted by Sir Thomas Beecham). 7.30 The Winter's Tale with Ronald Pickup as Leontes (Richard Briers as Gordon as Hermione. The cast also includes Gary Bond Twenty-Four Hours News Summary, 7.30 Marching and Walking, 7.45 Network UK, 8.00 World News, 8.05 Newsweek, 8.15 Golden Treasury, 8.20 John Peel, 8.30 World News, 8.35 News, 8.40 News, 8.45 News, 8.50 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 8.55 News, 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Ronald Pickup: The Winter's Tale (Radio 3, 7.30pm)

FREQUENCIES: Radio 1 MF 1053kHz/285m or 1089kHz/275m. Radio 2 MF 693kHz/433m or 909kHz/330m. Radio 1/2 VHF 88-91MHz. Radio 3 MF 1548kHz/194m. VHF 95.8MHz. BBC Radio London MF 720kHz/417m. VHF 92.5MHz. Greater London Area MF 720kHz/417m. VHF 92.5MHz. World Service MF 648kHz/463m.

REGIONAL TELEVISION VARIATIONS

CHANNEL	TYNE TEES	GRAMPAN	CENTRAL
As Thames except: 1.20pm-1.30 News. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Channel Report. 6.35 What's On? 7.00 News. 7.40 The Big Breakfast. 7.50 News. 8.00 News. 8.30 News. 8.55 News. 9.00 News. 9.30 News. 9.55 News. 10.00 News. 10.30 News. 10.55 News. 11.00 News. 11.30 News. 11.55 News. 12.00pm Newsdown.	As Thames except: Starts: 9.20 am Good Word. 9.25-9.30 News. 1.20 pm-1.30 News, Lookaround. 3.45-4.15 Benson. 4.20 Fanglepage. 4.45-5.45 240 Robert. 6.00 News. 6.30 Crossroads. 6.25 Northern Life. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 News. 10.35 Job Slot Extra. 10.35 Bizarre. 11.00 Check It Out. 11.30 Medicine Men: Radionics. 12.00 Travelling. 12.05 am Newsdown.	As Thames except: Starts: 9.25 am-9.30 First Thing. 1.20-1.30 News. 4.20 Flying Kix. 4.45-5.15 Sport Bolly. 6.00 North Tonight. 6.30 Police News. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Entertainers. 10.30 Bizarre. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 Seaside Lathian. 11.45 Living & Growing for Parents and Teachers. 12.15 am News. 12.20 Newsdown.	As Thames except: 12.30pm-1.00 Young Doctors. 1.20-1.30 News. 4.20 Sport Bolly. 4.45 Jason of Star Command. 5.15-5.45 Here's a Boomer. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.25 News. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Ventura: How the Midlands earns its living. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 News. 11.55 Bad Detective. 12.25am Newsdown.
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As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 6.00-6.45 Not for Women Only. 7.20 Palmerston. USA. 5.10-5.15 Jobline. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 News. 7.00 Our Incredible World. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.25 News. 10.30 Superstar Profile: Burt Reynolds. 10.40 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 Lou Grant. 12.30 am Newsdown.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 7.00-2.45 Not for Women Only. 3.15 News. 3.45 The Space. 4.00 News of the week. 5.30-5.45 Coast to Coast. 6.00 Coast to Coast. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Just Williams. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 News Avengers. 12.30 am Company followed by Newsdown.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 4.20 Sport Bolly. 4.45-5.45 Little House on the Prairie. 6.00 Calendar. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Country Calendar. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 Ladies Man. 12.00 Newsdown.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm News. 1.30-2.00 Byrones. 2.00 Afternoon Plus. 4.20 Palmerston USA. 5.15 Pet Rabbit. 5.20-5.45 Afternoon News. 6.00 Scotland Today. 6.20 Bodyline. 6.30 You Now See It. 7.00-7.30 Take the High Road. 10.30 Make Me Music. 11.00 Search for Love. 11.45 Life Call. 11.50 Barney Miller. 12.20 am Newsdown.
HTV CYMRU/WALES	ULSTER	TSW	ANGLIA
HTV West except: 11.22 am-11.37 am Gwyn. 11.40 Pull a Pin. 12.05-12.10 Callinero. 4.15 Theatre Box. 4.55 S4r. 5.10-5.20 Undersea Adventures of Captain Memo. 6.00 Y Ynys. 6.15 Report Wales. 6.30-7.00 Sports Arena. 10.20-11.30 All Kind of anything. Magazine Programme.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 Lunchtime. 4.20 Adventures of Black Beauty. 4.50 The Flying Kix. 5.15 Good News of the Week. 5.30-5.45 Good Evening Ulster. 6.00 Good Evening Ulster. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Bizarre. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 Bedtime.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 5.15 Gus Honeybun. 5.20-5.45 Crossroads. 6.00 Today South West. 6.40 Tele Views. 6.40 Take a Lookster. 7.00-7.30 News. 10.32 News. 10.35 Controversy: Talk-in. 11.05 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.35 George Canning Quartet. 12.05am Postscript. 12.11 Newsdown.	As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 2.00-2.45 Not for Women Only. 4.20 Vicky the Viking. 4.15-5.15 Further adventures of Oliver Twist. 6.00 About Anglia. 6.20 Arena. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Benson. 10.30 Supersquash: New series from the Gosling Stadium, Welwyn Garden City. 11.05 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 Lou Grant. 12.30 am Council in Question.
BORDER		GRANADA	
As Thames except: 1.20 pm-1.30 News. 4.20 Here's a Boomer. 4.45-5.45 Little House on the Prairie. 6.00 Crossroads. 6.35 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Gollings: Gene Sarszen. 11.00 Medicine Men: Acupuncture. 11.30 News. 11.33		As Thames except: 1.20-1.30 Granada Reports. 4.50-5.45 Little House on The Prairie. 6.00 Granada Reports. 6.25 The Eye Right. 6.30 Crossroads. 7.00-7.30 Emmerdale Farm. 10.30 Barney Miller. 11.00 Medicine Men: Radionics 11.30 What's the Story? 11.45 The Tansies and Brown Shoe. 12.45 am Newsdown.	

